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Palestinian Affairs

Criticism of Libyans' Jerusalem Visit Continues

JN0306191993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1652 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Reactions to the Libyan move of sending some 200 Libyans to occupied Jerusalem under the pretext of performing a pilgrimage at the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque have continued.

When asked about the repercussions that the visit to Jerusalem made by the so-called Libyan pilgrims could have on the deportee issue, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said: This measure does not befit those who profess to be upholding principles. It has filled our hearts with sadness, bitterness, and grief. We urge Libya and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to halt his moves on this dark road, which is bound to bring about a serious decline in the Arab nation's state of affairs.

For its part, the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, issued a statement that said: Proceeding from an eagerness to safeguard the common pan-Arab principles and the role of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which is opposed to imperialism and Zionism, and in light of the fraternal and militant ties we maintain with the Libyan people and leadership, the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, views this measure as a serious political precedent, regardless of the pretexts and motives that could be advanced. This measure, which has political connotations, cannot but fall in line with the political climate of the ongoing negotiations.

The statement added: This criminal move is a serious blow to the Arab and Islamic masses, a harsh slap in the face of Libya's history and strugglers, and an act that undermines the principles for which mujahid leader 'Umar al-Mukhtar was martyred, and for which the 1 September [Libyan] revolution was launched, particularly because Jerusalem was the password used by the group that carried out this revolution.

The statement went on to say: This visit has been met with rejection, denunciation, and condemnation by our people inside occupied Palestine and in the diaspora. The intifadah masses expressed their anger at this criminal move by boycotting the Libyan delegation. They were not deceived by the statements made and the justifications advanced by the head of this delegation. By doing this, these masses affirmed that the liberation of Palestine is not achievable by visits, appeals, or negotiations, but rather through struggle, fighting, and jihad, as the latter course is the principal one that must be pursued to liberate Jerusalem and the entire Palestinian territory.

The statement said: The struggles waged by our Arab nation in its contemporary history have shown that the confrontation of the enemies is the sound and proper course that must be pursued if its national or pan-Arab objectives are to be attained. These struggles have also demonstrated that retreat will protect no one, nor will it halt the series of pressures, blackmail, and aggression. Nor will it, for that matter, stop the attempts being made to dominate the Arabs through the peace talks course and the hostile imperialist onslaught.

The statement concluded by saying: While wondering about the person who could have endorsed this criminal move, which is deemed condemnable by our movement, all strugglers of our people, and the Arab and Islamic masses, including their revolutionary forces, we in Fatah are fully aware that the Libyan people, as well as the leadership of the 1 September revolution will take to task and punish the person responsible for perpetrating this crime and also that they will remedy the serious repercussions it created, which had negative effects for Libya, Palestine, and the Arab and Islamic nations. We are sure that Libya will continue to support Palestine and the causes of its Arab nation until victory is achieved.

In a separate statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine condemned the so-called Jerusalem pilgrimage visit made by Libyans. The movement said that this visit is in harmony with the al-Sadat Jerusalem visit, noting that it came within the context of efforts to normalize ties with the Zionist entity.

In its statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine added: The Islamic Jihad Movement condemns this visit regardless of the pretexts advanced to justify it. Our people have been shocked by this peculiar move, which we cannot understand except as a move that is in harmony with a similar visit al-Sadat made to Jerusalem. This visit is also designed to bring about a normalization of ties with Israel.

The statement warned that the political significance of this move, which was made under the guise of performing a pilgrimage in Jerusalem, is very serious. The statement pointed out that this visit came in the aftermath of official contacts held between Arab, Zionist, and U.S. parties. The statement demanded that this visit be renounced, and that its painful effects be remedied.

The statement indicated that this Libyan measure was meant to placate the United States and the Western world, and also to bring about an end to the air and arms embargo imposed on Libya by the United Nations since 15 April 1992. However, this move will not resolve the problem. It is merely a useless move backward.

Commenting on the so-called pilgrimage to occupied Jerusalem made by a Libyan group, an official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine made the following statement: Such a visit, regardless of its pretexts, carries with it political connotations that harm our people's struggle and steadfastness in the face of the Zionist occupation. Also, it weakens the forces opposed to the efforts to conclude a U.S.-Zionist settlement.

The spokesman added: Such a move, which is part of efforts to normalize ties with the Zionist entity, will not change the positions and policies of the United States and its allies toward the embargo imposed on the Jamahiriyah. Such a move will, indeed, encourage them to persist with the policy of pressure and blackmail to bring the Arab nation to its knees and impose capitulation on it.

Al-Qadhdhafi Accused of 'Trading' on Cause

TA0306155993 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Libyan Hajj—Not to al-Ka'bah"]

[Excerpts] Our objection to the Libyans' visit to the holy land in Palestine did not stem from the fact that they came with Israel's agreement and consent as much as from the Palestinians' feeling that the leader of the 1 September Revolution, just as many other Arab revolutionaries, was trading on the Palestinian cause. The West, led by the United States, imposed sanctions and a blockade on Libya, which was charged with having blown up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, "the inspired" president, wants to placate the White House and demonstrate that his regime is moderate and that not only is he prepared to allow Libyans to go to Israel, but that he personally is also ready to visit Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi vehemently reproached Anwar al-Sadat, the late Egyptian president, for visiting Jerusalem. However, by his prowess and shrewdness, al-Sadat was able to regain all the Egyptian territories occupied by Israel, and as an Egyptian leader, he was acting for the sake of Egypt. True, the peace achieved by al-Sadat was a separate one, the cost of which was paid by the Palestinian people, but what could al-Qadhdhafi possibly achieve? Today he is kneeling in front of the White House pleading for the Americans to lift the embargo against him and his country and forget their accusations against Libya.

We cannot but ask the Almighty to help the fraternal Libyan people in their distress, so that they may attain early redemption before al-Qadhdhafi makes another decision to change the Islamic calendar, shift the Libyan peoples' hajj away from Mecca, and designate the Wailing Wall as the new direction toward which the Libyan people turn to pray.

Chief Negotiator at Talks Discusses U.S. 'Bias'

PM0306132893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 93 pp 20, 21

[Article by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations: "Nothing Inspires Optimism; Palestinians Offered Big Concessions to Israel but Obtained No Tangible Results"]

[Text] Without doubt, the peace process, which began in Madrid over 18 months ago and during which nine rounds of negotiations have been held between the Arab parties participating in this process and Israel, has so far achieved no tangible results as a result of the intransigent position of the Israeli Government, which is not complying with the authority of Security Council Resolution 242. If Israel's aim from this intransigence is for it not to be regarded as an occupation authority and for the land it is occupying to be regarded as a disputed territory, this intransigent position will encounter nothing from the Palestinian negotiating delegation except emphasis on the importance of recognizing the Palestinian people's right to have full powers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the timetable specified by the cosponsors of the peace negotiations—the United States and Russia.

It is not difficult to say that the optimistic news that some brothers in the Palestinian negotiating delegation and even a number of U.S. officials have tried to circulate over the past few days is not based on a realistic foundation. This is because at the end of the ninth round of negotiations, which concluded in Washington early in the month, we had nothing to take back to our people, who are suffering daily from death, starvation, and dispossession as a result of this oppressive occupation.

The Israeli negotiating delegation's continued attempts to avoid talking about the occupied territories issue at this stage and to talk instead about transferring powers in various fields like health, education, trade, and tourism are nothing but a waste of time. Especially because the Israeli settlement process in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is continuing, and there is a blockade which was imposed on hundreds of thousands of our people's sons several weeks ago. The aim of Israeli policy at the present stage—in light of what we sensed during the round of negotiations—is to prepare an atmosphere to impose new realities on the ground by reinforcing the settlements and constructing buildings and roads—which proves that the Israeli authorities will reinforce this reality so that it will be in its favor in the end.

A few years before the negotiations were launched we Palestinians offered big concessions, not least of which is our recognition of Israel's right to live as a state in peace and within secure borders. And we submitted many explanations of our views in the hope that the Israelis, who occupy our country, would embark on a step which could be described as a response to what we offered, although we are the victims of this oppressive occupation. But Israeli officials' interest in talking about side issues and avoiding the essence is not in the interests of the Israeli side or the Palestinian side. In addition, the Palestinian negotiator's agreement to dividing the negotiation process with the occupying authorities into two phases—a transitional phase and a final phase—is a concession rarely offered by a negotiating party in our situation to occupying authorities, despite the fact that all international laws and known laws endorse our right as Palestinians to a state and a homeland and to self-determination.

The Palestinian side's agreement to negotiate on the basis of the terms I mentioned earlier was designed to clear the way for reexamining the new reality which Israel has imposed and continue to impose illegally. The adoption of this position by the Palestinians and their legitimate representative, the PLO, does not in any way mean the abandonment of fundamental issues or backtracking on regarding Israel as an occupation force. Thus Israel should not benefit from the length of this occupation, especially as Resolution 242 stressed the impermissibility of seizing others' territories by force. It also called for withdrawing from the occupied territories in return for achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

Our participation in the negotiations as Arab delegations and a Palestinian delegation centered on U.S. promises that the ninth round of negotiations would be a decisive round and must produce positive results. The impression generated among us after U.S.-Palestinian meetings and U.S.-Arab meetings coincided with a firm Arab and international position that condemned Israeli actions and practices, especially the haphazard policy of deporting citizens without any right. Thus a 10th round of negotiations in Washington must be linked to an Israeli pledge that the authority of peace is Resolution 242—which means, as far as we Palestinians are concerned, a complete Israel withdrawal from all the occupied areas, including Jerusalem at the end of the second phase, and the implementation of the land for peace principle. And without doubt, such an announcement would guarantee our return to the negotiating table.

The U.S. Administration promised to play the role of a full partner in the peace negotiations, but it did not specify the meaning of the term "full partner." We understand this term to mean that the task of a "full partner" is to compel the negotiating parties to respect the authority of peace and to implement Resolution 242. Thus forcing Israel to deal seriously with the negotiating Arab parties requires that the U.S. Administration play a role different from the one it played during the ninth round of negotiations. And it is not unfair for me to describe this U.S. role as biased toward Israel.

We do not deny that we are on the threshold of a historic phase and that we have ahead of us golden opportunities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that puts an end to our people's suffering, which has continued for about 50 years. We acknowledge that there are, across the globe, regional and international problems and disputes which are not easy to resolve, and that U.S. officials have other issues that could preoccupy them for years, whether at the domestic or foreign levels. But we do not want it to look as if we were the ones who ended a negotiation process aimed at achieving a just peace for our cause. Thus we welcome every serious U.S. effort to talk with us in a manner designed to push the peace process forward by putting Israel in a corner and forcing it to follow a positive path in the negotiations.

The threat to us Palestinians that we would be the losing party in negotiations like the ones being conducted if we do not accept what we are offered inspires ridicule. This is because I do not believe that we will reach a situation worse than the one we are experiencing now. The wave of murder, arrest, starvation, and persecution has not stopped for a single day, although the negotiation process began 19 months ago. The saying that our people are capable of being patient and standing fast is a reality sensed by anyone who has visited our camps, towns, and villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Thus our adoption of negotiations as a means to secure a solution to this historic crisis does not mean the end of the road. The best proof of this is that the flame of the intifadah, which our people ignited at the end of 1987, is still blazing. And I do not believe for one moment that a single Palestinian would agree to work to extinguish the flame of this intifadah before it achieves the aims for which it was launched as a practical reply to Israel's attempts to erase the truth by beautifying the face of the occupation.

Comments on Amman Meeting

NC0406072593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to our program.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thanks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You will attend the meeting of the Arab countries in Amman on Sunday [6 June]. Could you tell us about the Palestinian position you will present in that meeting?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The meeting will be held at the foreign minister level. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will represent the Palestinians at the meeting. The members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will also be present in Amman. As you know, the meeting is to coordinate the Arab position. We will review the situation and look into the problems and obstacles that face the peace talks. We will discuss the exchanges that took place in the bilateral talks involving the Palestinian, Jordanians, Syrians, and Lebanese.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The ninth round of talks was a disappointing one, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the talks. The Palestinians presented their own working paper, as did the Israelis. Then the Americans presented a working paper to reconcile the Palestinian and Israeli positions. You have expressed reservations about the U.S. paper. Could you tell us about these reservations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Our main reservation concerning the U.S. paper is that it did not address the issue of the land and the jurisdiction over the land [al-wilayah 'ala al-ard] during the transitional phase. This issue, the jurisdiction

over the land, is essential to us. Israel continued to build settlements after the talks started and is still doing so. This matter conflicts with the spirit of peace. This is an important issue, and we have to state our position clearly on it.

We are willing to hold more discussions with the U.S. side, but we cannot compromise on our position concerning the land.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you made your position clear to the American side?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, we have.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What was the U.S. answer?

['Abd-al-Shafi] So far, we have not received any convincing answer.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What do you expect from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to the region?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, we don't object to dealing with any envoy sent by the United States. We don't want to be accused of impeding the peace process. We have not joined the process to impede it; we joined it sincerely and very positively. We remain committed to this position. After eight [as heard] rounds with nothing to show, clearly, there is something wrong. This is our position. We want the U.S. sponsor to make Israel respect the term of reference for the peace process, namely Resolution 242.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process are due to meet. Will you present any conditions for the next round at this meeting?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot discuss these things now. We will see how the meeting proceeds.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is known that promises were made before each round of negotiations to continue the peace process. But these promises evaporated, and everyone got involved in yet another debate on whether to hold a new round of talks. Thus, movement remained within the confines of the same closed circle. Do you expect the same thing to happen in the next round?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe it is too early to discuss the next round before the foreign ministers meet. Undoubtedly, we were disappointed by the ninth round, following many promises by the U.S. and Israeli sides that yielded no results. We cannot forget this, and we will certainly consider it when we meet the Arab brothers to review all that has been done.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What do you expect from the meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process in the Jordanian capital on 6 June?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will discuss the issue frankly, in all its aspects. The process should be assessed on the basis of previous rounds and the possible eventualities so that we can decide on a united Arab stance. This is the objective.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, despite some people's disappointment or pessimism caused by the outcome of the ninth round, optimism remains, something Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stressed when he said the Palestinian state now exists on the political map and will soon exist geographically. How do you regard this optimism?

['Abd-al-Shafi] President 'Arafat is optimistic by nature. We hope there are grounds for this optimism.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank you and always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Algeria

UN Secretary General Meets With Top Officials

Confers With Foreign Minister

LD0306134493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and minister of foreign affairs, received UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who has begun a working visit to Algeria within the framework of a tour of the Arab Maghreb region, at the Foreign Ministry today.

Private talks between Malek and Butrus-Ghali, which were extended to members of the two delegations, provided an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern at the regional and international levels. [passage omitted]

Discusses W. Sahara With Abdessalam

LD0306215693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] At the government headquarters, Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam received Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. During this meeting, the two sides discussed international problems at length, particularly the Western Sahara issue and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the situation in Africa, particularly the economic aspect.

The talks took place in the presence of official government spokesman Ait Chaalal, the UN secretary general's special envoy in charge of the Western Sahara, and Algeria's ambassador to the UN.

Upon leaving the prime minister's office, Mr. Butrus-Ghali made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali, in French, fading into Arabic translation] We had a series of talks, starting with Somalia, the forthcoming African summit which will convene in Cairo, and the problems of Bosnia. We also discussed UN efforts in San Salvador. I would like to thank the Algerian Government for Algeria's contribution to the UN, whether its contribution in Cambodia or the contributions made by Algerian senior officials at the UN, such as our director who runs Africa's economic committee or others in charge of other duties. [end recording]

Calls Talks With Ali Kafi 'Positive'

LD0306221393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Chairman of the Higher State Council Mr. Ali Kafi this afternoon received at his residence in Zeralda UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who is currently paying a working visit to Algeria within the framework of a tour he is making in the Arab Maghreb region. The talks were attended by Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar and Minister of Foreign Affairs Redha Malek.

Regarding the contents of these talks Mr. Butrus-Ghali made the following statement to Sameya Azzi:

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali, in French fading into Arabic translation] The talks with the chairman of the Higher State Council were positive and constructive. I would like to thank him for the warm welcome he gave me. We talked about a variety of problems, particularly Algeria's role in the UN. We also dealt with African problems. I hope to meet the chairman of the Higher State Council at the end of this month at the OAU Summit in Cairo. We also talked about the problem of the Sahara and efforts by the UN for the implementation of Resolution 809. Tomorrow I will be going to the Algerian town of Tindouf to meet with Saharan President Abdelaziz in an attempt to solve the problem of the Western Sahara. The UN role is to find peaceful solutions for various international issues. [end recording]

Egypt

Interior Minister on Foiled Terrorist Plot

NC0306212493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1921 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the security services have foiled a serious terrorist plan that was to be carried out during the 'Id al-Adha holiday in Cairo and in five other governorates, three of them in Lower Egypt and two in Upper Egypt.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Friday, al-Alfi said 15 terrorist leaders, who made detailed arrangements for implementing the plan, have been arrested. A similar number of their aides also were arrested two weeks before the 'Id.

Al-Alfi affirmed that the security services received complete information about the plan, and a careful plan was made for their arrest. The arrest took place after permission was received from the Attorney General's Office. The arrest came as a complete surprise to the terrorists while they were in their hideouts. They surrendered quietly and without resistance.

The interior minister said the plan was prepared abroad by terrorist leaders known to Egypt, moving between Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and the United States. They are Shawqi al-Islambuli, Mustafa Hamzah, Amin al-Zawahiri, and Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The plan called for the assassination of 10 senior political and public figures, attacking a number of major economic establishments and vital installations and some railway lines, exploding bombs in about six busy major public squares in order to cause the largest number of casualties and spread alarm and terrorize the citizens.

Al-Alfi added that the arrests took place in a number of furnished apartments and in some outlying and slum areas. An unusually huge quantity of weapons, ammunition, and highly explosive material (TNT), and dangerous types of automatic weapons, which the terrorists prepared to use in Egypt for the first time, were found.

The interior minister affirmed it transpired that all the seized weapons are of the types and models used in Afghanistan and some of them are old Russian-made ones. He said the entire case was referred a few days ago to the supreme state security prosecution office, which currently is carrying out extensive investigations in full secrecy.

He asserted that there is a strong regular link between the terrorists in Egypt and their Egyptian leaders abroad who belong to the al-Jihad Organization and al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group]. These leaders, he added, are the ones who designate the tasks and follow up their implementation. He said that a sum amounting to approximately $30,000 is given to each group tasked with carrying out a single operation in Egypt, in addition to fixed monthly rewards that reach the organization members from abroad and range between $10,000 and $20,000. He said they use part of these funds to purchase arms from local sources, in addition to arms and explosives smuggled through various entry points. He added: We seized a large number of these weapons at one of the entry points in May.

The interior minister noted that cooperation has begun with some security agencies in Eastern and Western countries and in the Arab region, particularly within the context of the exchange of information and consultation. We soon will sign accords with a number of countries on the exchange of suspects, he said.

Al-Alfi affirmed that there is not one terrorist under detention without a specific charge. He explained that the number of detained terrorists at present does not exceed one fourth the number mentioned by some foreign circles. They all are accused in various cases, and investigation is still continuing. They are awaiting the prosecution's decision to bring them to trial or release them.

The interior minister strongly denied the claims made by the foreign media and the international organizations that savage acts of torture are taking place inside the prisons and that Egypt violates human rights. He said these are allegations and lies, and a flagrant attempt to distort Egypt's image. He asked: How do the human rights organizations claim that these rights are being violated in Egypt while they totally ignore the real violation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina? He added that what is being said about torture is a total fabrication. There are some who inflict personal injury on themselves in order to influence the court judges, and there are some who resist and attack the police when they are being arrested, and I think the police have a right to defend themselves against this.

Al-Alfi also denied the claims that the Egyptian police harass bearded men, detaining and questioning them when they arrive in the country. He said: It is not true that we harass those who come to Egypt just because they have beards. We do not do anything more than what is done at the entry points of foreign countries. We merely examine the identity of the person and the validity of his travel documents, and this has nothing to do with religion or having a beard.

The interior minister affirmed that no demonstrations or protest marches have taken place in Asyut or other cities in Upper Egypt, as claimed by the foreign media and some foreign news agencies. He said what happened was that groups chanted religious verses before prayers. This is normal, has been going on for many years, and we have no objection to it. He affirmed, however, that if things go beyond that, we will have a different stand.

The interior minister said that a new strategy has been devised to guard important figures, roads, public places, mosques, churches, bridges. This will be done by unconventional methods, some visible and some invisible.

Al-Alfi said he will announce within a few days full and important details about a new terrorist organization also uncovered before the 'Id al-Adha. Hundreds of its members have been arrested after complete lists of their names were discovered. He said their aim was to revive the al-Jihad Organization and resume its terrorist operations. A large amount of weapons, ammunition, and explosives was discovered in their possession.

Investigation Uncovers 'Terrorists' Finance Network

NC0306080493 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 May 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari]

[Text] Investigations reveal that over 15 Egyptian and other Arab businessmen helped Saudi millionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin to finance Egyptian, Algerian, and Tunisian terrorists. This came to light after the Saudi Government acceded to the Egyptian Government's request to cooperate in confronting terrorist activity and its financiers.

Investigations conducted by a joint Egyptian-Saudi committee have revealed that the financing operations began 10 years ago under the guise of funding the Afghan mujahidin. Egyptian terrorists obtained $20-30 million to buy equipment, printing presses, and weapons. The money passed through foreign banks in Cairo. It transpired that Bin-Ladin played the role of intermediary in collecting donations for the extremists from Arab and Egyptian businessmen living abroad. The Egyptian security services have received a dossier about Bin- Ladin's contacts with terrorist leaders abroad and his meetings with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Information was also received that Bin- Ladin lives in Sudan. Attempts are under way to ascertain this information and study the possibility of bringing him to trial.

AL-AHALI has learned that the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Military Prosecutor have drawn up a list of 185 people who opened bank accounts in their own names to be used by extremists as a conduit for the funds they receive from abroad.

Security sources have said the Public Prosecutor's Office will give the Central Bank the account numbers so the bank can examine the deposits from abroad and the withdrawals. This is being done because the account holders are officially suspects and because some suspects revealed in their confessions that others hold accounts.

Security agencies expect the terrorist groups to step up their burglaries of jewelers' stores, to resort to car and motorcycle thefts, and to rob the safes of large stores, currency exchange offices, and banks. These expectations are based on information the agencies collected that the terrorist groups face the prospect of a financial crunch. Financial difficulties would diminish their activities and weaken the leaders' hold on their followers.

Libyan Pilgrims' Spokesman Comments on Israel Visit

NC0306135393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—Daw Salim al-Tajuri, spokesman for the Libyan pilgrims delegation that recently visited Jerusalem, has stressed that the decision to visit the holy places in Jerusalem was "a personal decision" made by the pilgrims themselves. At a news conference in Cairo today, he said that the Libyan delegation "does not represent any official party." He denied that the visit is tantamount to recognition of Israel. He noted that the Libyan pilgrims already have declared that they do not recognize Israel and have called for its liberation and for peaceful coexistence between Eastern Jews and Arabs. He pointed out that Israel's anger over the Libyan pilgrims' statements emphasizes that there is no coordination or agreement between Libya and Israel.

Al-Tajuri noted that the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem comes within the framework that it is an Arab and Islamic city and capital of the state of Palestine, which many countries have recognized. He denied that the Libyan pilgrims cut short their visit to Jerusalem, noting that there was no specific duration for the visit.

At the news conference, attended by the Libyan Embassy liaison office members in Cairo, al-Tajuri said that the Libyans who visited Jerusalem may be put on trial for the visit because they did not obtain an official permit. He said, however, that "the delegation members will explain their position to the Libyan authorities and are sure that the authorities will understand."

Al-Tajuri pointed out that the Libyan pilgrims delegation sent a cable from Jerusalem via Italy to Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli asking for forgiveness because they did not obtain a permit from the Libyan People's Congresses before going to Jerusalem.

Al-Tajuri denied that Palestinians prevented the delegation members from going to al-Aqsa Mosque. He affirmed that the delegation members prayed in the mosque with Palestinians and that the presiding imam was Palestinian. He said he does not regret his visit to Jerusalem.

Musa Discusses Peace Process With PLO's 'Abbas

NC0306182893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Said Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement

in Egypt. The discussion dealt with the developments on the Palestinian issue, the results of the ninth round of peace negotiations, and preparations for the tenth round of the negotiations.

Foreign Minister Musa was in contact by telephone today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said that the two ministers conferred on the coordination meeting of the Arab cordon states foreign ministers which will be held in Amman on Sunday and the issues which will be raised.

More on Meeting

NC0306203593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1906 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin. The delegation includes 'Arafat's political adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

'Abbas said that the meeting dealt with the negotiations with the U.S. party in its capacity as one of the cosponsors of the peace conference and preparations for the fifth meeting of the cordon states scheduled to convene in Amman on Sunday to assess the nine rounds of peace talks.

On the U.S. plan submitted at the ninth round of peace talks, 'Abbas said that the United Stats put forward its plan at the end of the ninth round in the form of a joint statement. He noted that the Palestinians demand a declaration of principles and that there is a big difference between a declaration of principles and a joint statement.

'Abbas disclosed that a message has been sent to the United States. He did not rule out the possibility of sending a Palestinian delegation to the United States to follow up the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue on the proceedings of the nine rounds of peace talks. He said: We are not currently discussing the principle of participating in the 10th round of peace talks, nor do we want to enter into the same dialogue witnessed in the past rounds on participation or non-participation. He said that the main issue for the Arab countries is assessing the ninth round of peace talks and preparing for the 10th round.

'Abbas said that the brothers in Egypt stressed that the United States will continue to play the role of a full partner in the negotiations. He denied that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to tour the Middle East. He stressed that Israel should not link the issue of human rights in the occupied land to political issues and that the two issues should be separated. He noted that it is disgraceful for mankind in the 20th century to link human rights to political issues. He stressed that the issue of the deportees has not been put on a back burner and that it still commands Palestinian attention.

Musa Views Peace Process, Current Issues

NC0306114893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 May 93 p 5

[Report by Ahmad Na?']

[Excerpts] In the middle of his meetings and contacts to prepare for the African summit, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa gave an interview to AL-AHRAM in which he touched on current issues, all of them hot topics that preoccupy the Egyptian, Arab, and African public because they affect stability and security in the Arab and the neighboring African and Asian regions. It was natural to focus on negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, because they are linked with peace and stability throughout the Middle East, on efforts to provide a favorable atmosphere for Arab reconciliation, and on the situation in the Horn of Africa, one of the most important neighbors of the Arab homeland.

We asked: How close are we to a comprehensive settlement in the Arab region? What are the obstacles to such a settlement?

In his concise reply, Musa said the Arab states are on the road, adding that closeness is something relative. To explain further, he said that as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, there is a transitional period—five years at most, two at least—that will involve negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. He said the time limit for starting the final negotiations is known. As for Syria, he said, the issue needs successive measures that take time; we hope it will be short. "What counts is proceeding quickly toward agreement. Implementation will have a time limit. To say we are proceeding toward an agreement is unclear, but what is clear is that we are on the right course," he said.

Musa summed up the obstacles by tracing them back to domestic events, that is the domestic situation in Israel; to confidence- building measures not being sufficient; and to the inherent complexity of the issue itself. [passage omitted]

Commenting on reports of a possible meeting among Egypt, Israel, and the United States to overcome the obstacles to bilateral talks and of a meeting involving all the parties concerned and the peace conference sponsors "America and Russia", the foreign minister settled the issue by noting that many ideas abound, but none are being considered now. He said Egypt takes part in many activities, including consultations to give form to different stances. "In our contacts with Israel, America, the Arab states, and, let me say, the Palestinians, we always give ground for Egyptian action to make progress and achieve the closeness you talk about," Musa said.

Speaking about the Egyptian role, we posed a question on reports that Egypt has renewed talk about "the Jordanian option," that is, confederation between Palestine and Jordan and that it suggests trying to make a declaration of principles on the settlement talks. Musa said: The Jordanian option is not an Egyptian proposal; it is something raised now and then concerning the final status of the Palestinian entity. He said the issue is not clear, because a lot will depend on the "Palestinian autonomy stage" and what happens then. He added that if the transitional period builds confidence, cooperation, and coexistence, there might be a different rudimental solution for the Palestinian problem. But, he added, if it fails, that will be a different case and the confederation option might be considered. The foreign minister explained that the parties concerned contemplate "a declaration of principles" and drawing up an agenda. He said Egypt is abreast of all this. "I think it is sound to do exactly what you say, if it is permissible to say it." He said the conditions allow for starting the 10th round of bilateral talks in the middle of June.

It was natural to proceed with the initiative made by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, which Egypt supported in principle. We asked about Egypt's vision of the optimal approach for providing a favorable atmosphere for Arab reconciliation. Musa replied: Egypt is making contacts and exchanging views with Arab brothers on the initiative, which came just in time. He explained that the matter requires a lot of action to change the prevailing conditions. We have not reached the stage at which we can change the prevailing situation, he said.

Touching on the meetings of the Damascus Declaration signatories, the foreign minister said: The signatories' finance and economy ministers met in Doha on 18 May. This will be followed by a meeting among the foreign ministers in Abu Dhabi on 12 June. I hope these meetings will bring the Declaration out of its staggering state. [passage omitted]

Musa remarked that Egypt can offer much to Eritrea and that the two countries can achieve a great deal through cooperation. He pointed out that Egypt is prepared to provide technical assistance to the newborn state. He explained that this assistance has already started. He also said that the public and private sectors can undertake many trade and investment projects that will benefit the two countries. He asserted that Egypt has earmarked the necessary funds to consolidate bilateral cooperation in the agricultural, trade, educational, cultural, and other fields.

The foreign minister explained that political cooperation with Eritrea requires consultation, because the situation in the Horn of Africa causes concern. "The Horn of Africa is not isolated from the Middle East; there is full interaction between the two regions, just as the Ethiopian [as published] president told me. I share the same belief. It is important to guarantee security in the Horn of Africa, and Eritrea has a role to play in this connection. There will be dialogue and cooperation between Egypt and the newborn state which shares with us not only the broader Middle East region and the Horn of Africa, but also the geographical and cultural factors represented in the Red Sea coast," Musa said. [passage omitted]

Musa is optimistic about the future of cooperation between Egypt and the Horn of Africa, although this cooperation will largely depend on the fate of the Somali issue. Elaborating on this, he said: Cooperation with Ethiopia is important. There is no dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia. On the contrary, there is more cause for cooperation than for disagreement.

He added that Eritrea's relations with Egypt are excellent. "It is a youthful and rising state and we are preparing for cooperation with it. We also have good relations with Djibouti," he said; adding: This was clear during my meetings with the Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Djibouti presidents who harbor respect and appreciation for President Mubarak, his policy, and his desire to build constructive relations with all world states. They particularly appreciate the Egyptian awareness of the importance of the Horn of Africa and its interaction with the Middle East. We view the Horn of Africa as a vital and significant region. The states of the Horn of Africa also view Egypt as being very vital for them, Musa said.

The interview then touched on Sudan, one of the states of the Horn of Africa, and the escalation of its fabricated campaign. Sudan recently said that the Egyptian threats in the Red Sea have increased, requiring the mobilization of Sudanese popular forces to confront them. Musa said: Regardless of the Sudanese brothers' escalation of their campaign, we will not follow suit because we do not play such a game. He added: Egypt does not pay great attention to their papers' sensationalist campaigns due to the domestic reasons for them that they want to overcome. He stressed: As President Mubarak has explained, Egypt will not clash with or fight the Sudanese people because this is against the nature of things. He said: The Sudanese authorities' current behavior is a farce that will end. Reason will again prevail, and Egyptian- Sudanese relations will return to what they were before and what they should be, namely relations of interaction and integration which will preserve the rights of each party. [passage omitted]

The last question dealt with the latest developments in the contacts with the Arab and Islamic states to confront the phenomenon of terrorism. Musa said: This phenomenon is faced by all states and has an international character. All states should cooperate to confront this phenomenon. As I have said before and as I repeat now with conviction, the appearance of fundamentalist thought is a natural matter. There is also a need for dialogue, but the states must draw a line between dialogue on one hand and murder and violence on the other, because the matter then becomes violence unrelated to

religion. The image of Islam has been distorted throughout the world because of the acts committed in its name.

Musa explained that all states are against terrorism, which will cease because it cannot continue. All states and organizations without exception are confronting terrorism. He said this will take some time but it will not be long. He stressed that there is no restriction on freedom of thought. He also stressed that there will be no dialogue with the terrorists, who will be dealt with according to the law.

Foreign Minister Voices Concern on Bosnian Plan

NC0406104993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0919 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt is working tirelessly in coordination with other Islamic and Nonaligned countries to find effective options to stop the Serbian attack against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to terminate ethnic cleansing and the other inhumane practices taking place there.

Commenting on the efforts to pass a UN Security Council resolution aimed at stopping Serbian attacks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the foreign minister said that Egypt wants to see the displaced Bosnians return home and the aggressor punished.

Minister Musa added that Egypt doubts that these objectives can be achieved through the new plan prepared by the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France, and Spain. Egypt, he said, fears that the new plan may perpetuate the status quo in Bosnia-Herzegovina rather than start a process by which Serbian aggression would be stopped and its concomitant injustice redressed.

King Husayn's Remarks Against Saddam 'Too Late'

NC0306190093 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 May 93 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] When we opposed King Husayn's position during the Gulf crisis of supporting the invasion of a fraternal Arab country by another, the Jordanian papers became furious, libeled us, and leveled false accusations at us because their "master" considered Saddam at the time the savior of the Arab nation.

Things have changed now that King Husayn has discovered that he was deceived by al-Tikriti [Saddam Husayn], who lived under a great illusion that soon dissipated along with the dreams of those who coveted wealth. King Husayn the other day again criticized the Iraqi ruler sternly and fiercely and accused him of breaking the Arabs' back through his practices. He emphasized the need to remove him as quickly as possible.

King Husayn's discovery about the Jordanian journalists and chief editors comes too late. He said that some of these journalists gain materially for supporting the Iraqi rule at the expense of principles and run after money, flouting justice and truth. Good God! Are these not the same reporters who King Husayn used until recently to praise Saddam's false heroic acts and to defend lies? What principles, Your Majesty, are you belatedly talking about? How can you be enthusiastic about one thing and its opposite at the same time, when your country calls you the champion of the age?

King Husayn is now criticizing Jordanian reporters because they are trying to soften his stern statements about the Iraqi leadership. He is calling on them not to dilute his words so that perhaps, as he put it, things can change. The king seems to forget that the reporters wanted first and foremost to please him. The problem, however, is that this approach is now out of tune.

'Arafat Stops at Cairo Airport, Phones Mubarak

NC0106140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—During a stopover at Cairo airport this afternoon, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made a telephone call to President Husni Mubarak. They reviewed the outcome of the peace talks, ongoing actions in the regional and international arenas, and the conditions in the occupied Arab territories that have resulted from Israel's tightened iron grip on the Palestinians. 'Arafat congratulated President Mubarak on the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The Palestinian president was received and seen off at Cairo airport by 'Amr Jad, secretary at the presidential headquarters; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo.

Envoy to Sudan Returns To Brief Foreign Minister

NC3105135693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Hasan Jad al-Haq returned to Cairo this afternoon. He announced that he will report to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in Sudan.

Memorandum Signed With IMF-World Bank Delegation

NC2905161893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Egypt and a joint IMF-World Bank delegation signed a memorandum of understanding at the end of a round of negotiations that ended

in Cairo last night, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, said today.

He added that the memorandum of understanding referred to the tangible, positive progress in the negotiations between the two sides. He said it was agreed to resume dialogue between the two sides in two weeks on two outstanding points about economic reform's next phase after both sides have held detailed, scrupulous study on them in Cairo and Washington.

The joint IMF-World Bank delegation began negotiations in mid-May with senior economy officials in Cairo, negotiations in which the Central bank governor, the ministers of cabinet affairs, economy, finance, and international cooperation, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs participated.

Official Source Cited on Debt Rescheduling at Paris Club

NC0106101193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0747 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Ahead of the second phase of debt rescheduling, the International Cooperation Ministry has prepared a report on the position of Egypt's creditor countries at the Paris Club. The talks will aim to cut a further 15 percent of Egypt's foreign debts, bringing to 30 percent the total debt cut in the two phases.

An official International Cooperation Ministry source explained that at the most recent stage, Egypt rescheduled its debts to 16 countries excluding Italy. Negotiations are continuing with Italy to resolve differing views on one loan and its interest rate.

The source stressed that failure to reschedule debts to Italy will not hinder Egypt's entry to the second phase of rescheduling, expected to start after an agreement is signed with the IMF in late June or early July.

USFP Member on Moroccan Election Preparations

LD0306135293 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 3 (MAP)—The Moroccan Government has met almost all claims of the opposition concerning June 25 parliamentary elections, Mohamed el Yazghi, interim first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces "USFP", told Egyptian daily "AL AHRAM".

In an interview run Wednesday by the Egyptian paper, the USFP leader said the opposition claimed a good proceeding of the legislative elections, guarantee of irregularities-free elections, the revision of voters' lists, new electors cards and a new warding proportional to demographic density.

El Yazghi who attended in Cairo the works of the African Journalists Union explained that the option to present a unified list of candidates is facing some difficulties as elections in Morocco are uninominal [as received]. The USFP and the Istiqlal Party have however decided to present one candidate in each constituency, he said.

The USFP leader also talked about efforts of the Moroccan Government and the opposition parties to struggle against all forms of treachery, reminding in this regard the rejection during the communal elections of 400 candidates in connection with drug trafficking.

On the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] el Yazghi explained that the Lockerbie issue opposing Libya to three Western countries has significantly hampered the completion of joint projects, mainly between the AMU five countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and the European Community.

Awqaf Minister Asks Clerics To Confront Terrorism

NC2905191293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1541 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has affirmed that the state welcomes and advocates moderate religiousness within the context of wisdom and amicable argument that is apart from violence and bigotry.

Addressing a gathering of imams and preachers at al-Azhar University today, he said the state is confronting terrorism and bloodshedding in order to protect the process of moderate religiousness. He pointed out that religious awakening does not mean terrifying society, destroying its economy, or spreading terror among the people to cause chaos in society.

Dr. Mahjub appealed to the ulema to adopt the method of dialogue, not speeches and didactics, when dealing with issues of fallacious religious thought. He also asked them to boldly confront the calls for violence and terrorism without bigotry or emotion, and work to fortify the youths against the offensives that destroy religious and social values.

Unlicensed Arms Factory Closed: Equipment Confiscated

NC0106191893 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 29 May 93 p 9

[Report by Mahmud al-Samman from al-Qalyubiyah]

[Excerpt] Al-Qalyubiyah detectives yesterday seized a large unlicensed firearms factory in the middle of a fruit grove in Nawa' village, Tukh. State-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, including machines, belts, and a cardboard box containing seven pistols and three rifles destined for an Upper Egypt governorate were found in the factory.

The seized items and the manufacturing equipment were confiscated and the factory was sealed with wax until investigations are completed. The measure is part of efforts exerted by all security directorates to close the loopholes through which arms end up in the hands of terrorists, most importantly arms factories. [passage omitted]

Libya

Sources Deny Intention To Establish Relations With Israel

NC0406101093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 June (MENA)—High-level Libyan sources in Cairo have strongly denied that Libya is prepared to establish diplomatic or political relations with Israel. In a statement published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, the sources reaffirmed that Libya considers Jerusalem the capital of the Palestinian state.

At a news conference held in Cairo yesterday, Daw Salim al-Tajuri, spokesman for the Libyan pilgrims who visited Jerusalem, said their visit to Jerusalem did not mean Libyan recognition of Israel. He said the Libyan pilgrims' delegation did not represent any government body.

Morocco

King Hassan, UN's Butrus-Ghali Discuss Sahara Issue

LD0306133293 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, June 3 (MAP)—King Hassan II conferred here Wednesday afternoon with United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

According to press reports, talks covered means of furthering the UN settlement plan providing for the organization before the end of the current year of a self-determination referendum in the Sahara.

After his two day visit in Morocco, Butrus-Ghali left for Algeria where he is to review with Algerian officials modes for implementing the Security Council Resolution 809 on the referendum.

Upon departure from Rabat, Butrus-Ghali termed his talks with the sovereign as "extremely constructive and positive."

The UN secretary general who will also visit Tunisia is to submit to the Security Council next July a final report on his efforts to implement the UN resolutions and settle peacefully the Sahara issue.

The major difficulty hampering the implementation of the UN plan lies in the issues concerning interpretation and application of the criteria for voter eligibility.

Morocco upholds that all the Sahara natives, including those who fled Spanish colonization and who are not numbered in the Spanish census conducted in 1974, must necessarily participate in the projected referendum. The polisario wants to limit the voters to those figuring on the Spanish census which assessed the Sahara population at 74,000 persons.

Sudan

SPLM's Garang Views Results of U.S. Talks

PM0306153893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 93 p 11

[Report on interview with Sudanese People's Liberation Movement leader Colonel John Garang by 'Afaf Zayn in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] Colonel John Garang, mainstream leader in the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] opposed to the regime of President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir in Khartoum, has said that his visit to the United States early in the month [May] "was not, as reported, the result of pressures exerted on the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. This is because no one can twist the SPLA's arm." In an interview with him in London, Garang revealed to AL-WASAT that "the talks held in Washington and New York focused on two points: The need to appoint a UN observer to sponsor the Sudanese peace negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the SPLM, and ways of setting up safe zones in southern Sudan with a view to helping those affected by the civil war there."

In this context Garang revealed to AL-WASAT that his meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali "was a great honor," and that he took advantage of this meeting to tell Ghali of "the need for the United Nations to deal with the Sudanese question in a more serious manner." This is because the negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the SPLM (mainstream) in Abuja are very difficult, and reaching an understanding on common points is almost impossible. Thus the United Nations should be represented in these talks so that the negotiators will shoulder their responsibilities. Garang point out that "a UN representative told negotiators in Abuja to be more serious." He believes that the recent Abuja negotiations, at the end of which no joint statement was issued, produced two things only: Continuation of the cease-fire and agreement to resume the negotiations on 19 June. [passage omitted]

With regard to the idea of setting up safe zones in southern Sudan to facilitate the delivery of relief supplies to citizens there, Garang told AL-WASAT that this issue represents an axis for the talks with the U.S. side, which expressed understanding of the question and promised

to coordinate with the United Nations to implement this idea in view of the hitch in the negotiation process between the Sudanese Government and the SPLM. [passage omitted]

Garang Notes Accra Talks 'Fruitful,' Departs

AB0306182593 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA], Colonel John Garang, has said the country needs restructuring on the basis of confederation and power sharing. He said the modalities of this confederation would be presented to the next OAU summit in Cairo.

Col. Garang was speaking to newsmen in Accra before his departure after a three-day visit to Ghana. He expressed satisfaction with his visit to the country and thanked President Rawlings and the people of Ghana for the warm reception given him. He said in the Sudan, the SPLA has a high affinity with Ghana, and hoped the SPLA would continue to enjoy moral support from Ghana.

Col. Garang said he held fruitful discussions with the government on matters of regional concern.

SPLM Foreign Spokesman on Garang Movement's Aims

PM0406090893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 93 pp 32-33

[Interview with Dr. Mansur Khalid, "former Sudanese foreign minister and currently in charge of external contacts in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement," by Kamal Hamid in Nairobi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mansur Khalid disclosed that the Garang movement is working—in alliance with prominent Sudanese opposition parties like the Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Communist Party, and the political groups comprising the unions and leftist parties—to topple the present Sudanese regime.

He said: "The Khartoum regime interprets the opposition's movements as it wishes, but the truth which everyone knows is that this regime is fascist and has relied on repression from the outset and resorted to torture, detention, and execution without trial. This is in addition to racial segregation, curfews, and tanks and military motorized units; these things are rammed down the Sudanese people's throats day and night. A regime like this cannot be dealt with diplomatically or leniently. Violence is a must to achieve the aims. But we do not approve of the assassination and sabotage method, because it serves no objective and achieves no aim."

[Hamid] You visited the United States early in the month, accompanying Colonel John Garang. What is the background to the visit?

[Khalid] Of course, the regime and its media services said that we went to Washington to seek U.S. military intervention in Sudan. That is just drivel. Our visit to the United States was not the first. It was made at an invitation from the House of Representatives and the Senate to attend their joint session to discuss conditions in Sudan. The visit also included meetings with U.S. officials.

[Hamid] Did the visit not include seeking aid or U.S. or international intervention in southern Sudan?

[Khalid] The ridiculous thing is that the Al-Bashir regime urges the world to intervene in Bosnia-Herzegovina and yet fears the possibility of similar intervention in southern Sudan. The world does not now talk about intervention as interference. The world is in a new phase, and people must look around them, analyze matters, and see what is happening in former Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Angola. Some of the problems which appear local have international effects, because the world sees in them the utmost disregard for human life and international laws. When a tragedy reaches a certain level, the world will not adopt a spectator's attitude or keep silent. The anticipated intervention in Sudan is required for the sake of human issues and for delivering relief supplies to those affected—which requires two things: First, big support from the international organization through its governmental or nongovernmental establishments or through bilateral cooperation. Second, the availability of guarantees which cannot be secured under war conditions, which often suppress the desire for international cooperation due to the lack of goodwill or desire. This is why the international presence is a must in order to solve the problems and tragedies which could result intentionally or unintentionally. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Do you not believe that the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement has lost a lot of its reputation and strength as a result of the numerous splits in its ranks?

[Khalid] Of course, the dispute and split have harmed the movement and weakened its unionist tendency as a result of polarization and the hesitation which southerners see in the north. But at the top—I mean John Garang—the movement continue to maintain the same strategic unionist position. And the dissidents who have raised the separation slogan and begun to flirt with the Khartoum regime, which is by their standards the worst, have lost their credibility. [Khalid ends]

Khalid emphasized that "the only guarantee for a lasting peace and a respectable agreement in Sudan is the participation of all the political forces and seeking the people's opinion in a referendum."

Dissident Officer: Regime Will Fall 'Very Soon'

PM0406102293 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 93 p 33

[Interview with Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Khawjali, member of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, by Kamal Hamid in Nairobi; date not given]

[Excerpts] Our second interview was with Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Khawjali, prominent member of the "Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces," which comprises a group of senior officers who lost their posts after Al-Bashir seized power in June 1989. And it is now active against the present regime. Answering a question put to him by AL-WASAT, Khawjali said: "We are not at war with the Sudanese Armed Forces. We are fighting the present regime in Khartoum, represented by the National Islamic Front. The Legitimate Command has addressed the Armed Forces personnel several times to explain this position. And we sent some troops to the south to help Garang, on the grounds that he represents one of the Democratic National Grouping's factions and is working to achieve the same aims we want to achieve, namely to topple the present regime in Sudan." [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Do you believe that bloodshed, armed confrontation, sabotaging installations, and assassinations are methods acceptable to the Sudanese people?

[Khawjali] Maybe. But have the people ever known a government like this which executes, displaces, tortures, and dismisses its rivals and opponents for no reason and violates human rights in a way which the world has rejected? This government forced us to deal with it in the same way. It is trying to prolong its era by various means. It exploited the existence of clear negative aspects in opposition political action in the past, but we have succeeded in eliminating the negative aspects, and we now feel that this government's era is practically finished and the regime will collapse very soon. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You are accused of seeking to impose foreign solutions and interventions in Sudan.

[Khawjali] We hear those accusations from the media services of the Islamic Front government, but it has no evidence of them. We rely on our own resources and capabilities, and we have our own numerous means of toppling that regime. As for foreign means, it is the regime which has brought this about as a result of its position, its record of human rights violations, its fabrication of problems with the neighbors, and its support of terrorism. We are working from various positions to topple the regime. We have a clear political program which we present to every Sudanese seeking to serve his homeland. We are in touch with all groups of the Sudanese people both inside and outside the country. Anyone who agrees to cooperate with us is prepared to implement our aims, which are all designed to topple the regime.

Rebel Soldiers Defect to Armed Forces

AB0406110193 Paris AFP in English 2335 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Khartoum, June 3 (AFP)—Fourteen rebel soldiers, including four officers, have defected to the Sudanese Armed Forces in the western Nuer zone of Upper Nile State in south Sudan, the official media reported Thursday. The defectors included a lieutenant-colonel and three first lieutenants, according to the Army General Command, which said they were well received by government troops when they came over on March 25.

The military did not say whether the rebels came from Colonel John Garang's Dinka-dominated mainstream faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) or Riek Machar's dissident wing, which is mainly Nuer.

The Army General Command attributed continuing defections of rebel officers to low morale, the distances of supply lines and acute food shortages in their ranks. It also declared that the defectors were convinced of the need for peace in Sudan, where the SPLA has been fighting for a decade to end domination of the mainly animist and Christian south by the Arabic-speaking north.

Peace talks between Garang's SPLA mainstream and the Khartoum military junta broke down last month because of disagreement on imposing strict Islamic Shari'ah law or making Sudan a secular state.

Relief Aid Said Meeting Needs in South

EA0406073493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] A responsible source from the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has confirmed the transport of relief aid by land, air, and the River Nile to affected areas in the south. The source said that operations fulfill the needs of all affected areas in the south in terms of relief aid. The source said 944,000 tonnes of relief materials had been transported by air on 30 flights, adding that air transport operations resumed on 24 April with an average of two flights a day.

The source said the second convoy of river relief operations will leave in the next few days for Juba. The transport of food for Wau is proceeding satisfactorily.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets 'Arafat in Tunis 3 Jun

LD0306213893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met at noon today at Carthage Palace Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Habib Ben Yahya and Fatah Central Committee

member Mr. Hakim Bal'awi. Following the meeting, the Palestinian president made a statement in which he expressed his joy at meeting His Excellency the president on such a blessed day of 'Id Al-Adha to discuss a number of issues.

He added: I have conveyed to His Excellency the greetings of the struggling Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora and our many thanks as the ship carrying the donations of the Tunisian people to their brothers inside the occupied territories will set out today.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that his talk with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was important, because they reviewed the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular and jointly assessed the ninth round of Israeli-Arab negotiations. He added: The talk also allowed us to discuss what we could do in the future to push the peace process forward to achieve the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including its right of return and self-determination and the establishment of its independent state, to attain the confederation in accordance with the voluntary and free choice between the two fraternal peoples, the Jordanians and the Palestinians. It was also an opportunity to reiterate the importance of Arab unity, surpassing all that has happened, and the impact of the Gulf crisis to heal Arab wounds and restore Arab harmony and solidarity.

At the end of his statement, the Palestinian president reiterated, in the name of the Palestinian people and strugglers, his thanks to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to the government and the Tunisian people.

Iranian Foreign Minister, Ben Yahya Meet 2 Jun

NC0306063593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati met Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya in Tunis yesterday. The deputy foreign minister described deepening and expanding relations with Islamic countries as one of the objectives of Iran's foreign policy and stressed the need for unity among Islamic countries.

Ben Yahya described the religious, cultural, and historic similarities between the two countries as good grounds for expanding cooperation and he expressed satisfaction with the expansion of relations and exchanges of views with Iranian officials.

The deputy foreign minister will also visit Syria [as heard], Libya, and Morocco.

Saudi Arabia

Security Blocks Off Iran's Mecca Headquarters

LD0306161193 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Mecca, June 3, IRNA—Saudi security agents on Thursday besieged the 'Bethat al-Imam' preventing pilgrims from going into or out of the Iranian headquarters in this holy city.

Backed by four armoured personnel carriers and 25 militarymen, the Saudi agents in plain clothes took position around the 'Bethat al-Imam' and its nearby buildings.

The headquarters belonging to Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki and the buildings where Iranian reporters are residing, both next to the Bethat al-Imam are also under siege by Saudi security and military forces.

Until 18:15 hours Tehran time (13:45 GMT), Saudi soldiers equipped with gas masks and wielding light arms have taken up positions opposite the Bethat al-Imam with a large number of security agents keeping a close watch on the headquarters from nearby streets.

With tightening of security measures around al-Moabeda Square in this holy city, all shops in the area have been closed down.

Two closed circuit cameras and a helicopter frequently flying over the region are filming all activities in front of the Bethat al-Imam.

The reason for such tight security measures taken by Saudi forces is seemingly their suspicion that a ceremony would be held inside the Bethat al-Imam and its adjacent buildings in commemoration of the 4th anniversary of the decease of the late Imam Khomeyni.

Police End 'Siege'

LD0406111393 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Mecca, June 4, IRNA—Saudi police ended their siege of Bethat al-Imam (the residence of Iranian pilgrims) here midnight Thursday, but armoured police vehicles still continue to patrol the area.

Conditions in Alma'abida District here have not yet returned to normal. The Saudi police watching the Bethat from across the street has roused the curiosity of by-standers.

Two closed-circuit TV cameras zoom in on the premises and send pictures that are watched by the Saudi officials.

Until midnight Thursday there were 10 armoured personnel carriers, nine high-power water engines for dispersing would-be demonstrators, and tens of light army vehicles.

Family Barred From Visiting Jailed Activist

NC0306195593 Paris AFP in English 1929 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Nicosia, June 3 (AFP)—Saudi authorities have banned family members from visiting the jailed spokesman for a new Saudi human rights group denounced by Riyadh, the Liberty organization said Thursday.

Since the spokesman for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), Muhammad al-Mas'ari, was detained May 15, "neither his wife nor his parents have been able to visit him or contact him," Liberty said.

Liberty, a London-based organization specializing in the defense of human rights in the Muslim world, said it was quoting Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, the CDLR secretary general and Muhammad's father.

He also denied rumors his son had been released.

A source close to CDLR told Liberty that the committee was still intact.

The CDLR also said it issued a statement to King Fahd and other royal family members saying its action was based on Islamic values, but that it was not an alternative to the country's political or judicial authorities, according to Liberty.

The committee said it wanted to obtain the release of political prisoners and defend human rights. Saudi authorities denied there were any such prisoners and denounced the committee as unecessary, saying citizens were already protected under Islamic law.

The authorities cracked down on the committee soon after it was created, stripping the founding members of their jobs.

Speaker on Blockade, Border Demarcation, Kuwaiti POW's

NC0306141593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (MENA)—Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that according to international law, the Kuwaiti POW's issue is one involving missing persons. He noted that they may have been martyred or gotten lost in the desert. He pointed out that Iraq agrees with addressing the problem through the United Nations, the Red Cross, the Arab League, and the Red Crescent.

In a statement to MENA, Salih said that the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border represents the first time that the UN Security Council has passed such a resolution. He said that this approach will force the problem into a deadlock.

Salih stressed that Iraq is prepared to deal with the United States, Britain, and France, provided that the blockade on the Iraqi people is lifted. He accused the world of plotting against his country to weaken it. He said the accusations against Iraq of violating human rights and exercising dictatorial rule will continue even if Iraq follows the democratic practices of Britain, the United States, and France.

Letter Protests 28-30 May Airspace Violations

JN0406083893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (INA)—Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to offer facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraq's airspace and threaten its security and national unity.

A letter to the Arab League secretary general says that between 28 and 30 May these aircraft continued their violations of Iraqi airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, carrying out 201 hostile sorties.

The letter asserts that the continued facilities offered to the aggressive aircraft by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers constitute a grave threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League has asked that the letter be distributed to the Arab League's member states.

Rebel Radio Reports 'Panic' After Downing of Helicopter

JN0406113993 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] After the downing of a [word indistinct] helicopter in the (?Sulayb) marshlands by our zealous mujahidin a few days ago, the regime of the defeated tyrant is still panicking in a search for its occupants.

An Islamic mujahidin source says the 'Aflaqite [word indistinct] aircraft carried very important persons, as the commander of the Saddamist III Army Corps put it. The source said the III Army Corps command has offered 1 million Iraqi dinars as a reward for anyone who can provide information about the downed plane.

Earlier, our heroic mujahidin opened fire on four Saddamist helicopters, scoring a serious direct hit on one. The plane fell into the marshlands between our mujahidin forces' frontlines and the positions of the defeated tyrant's remnant forces in the [words indistinct] in al-Basrah Governorate.

Following the downing of the Saddamist plane, our mujahidin forces issued a statement saying that any plane overflying the southern marshlands of the country will be fired upon by our heroes, unless it carries a UN flag in plain view.

Article Claims Talabani Fostering Hate for Kurdistan

JN0406094793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said Jalal Talabani is playing a role he is required to play that seeks to make Kurdish citizens hate their country and leave Kurdistan.

In an article today, the paper says: Talabani is now trying to push Kurdish citizens to flee Iraq under the pretext that the Iraqi Army will attack the area.

The paper adds: Jalal wants to cover the escape of his and his henchmen's families to Europe to avoid the dilemma he will face when the honorable sons of our Kurdish people in Kurdistan move to tighten the grip around his henchmen.

The paper notes the tours of the agent cliques in European countries, particularly Jalal Talabani's regular visits to Paris, London, Washington, Berlin and Riyadh. The paper says Talabani included these capitals on the agenda of his party to teach his henchmen how to hate the cities of Kurdistan and love the hotels and countryside of these countries.

AL-'IRAQ says Jalal has used every book in which the instructions of the British intelligence service, Washington's directives, and Paris' recommendations were written. He has also used Saudi funds and the cars he received from Kuwait's amir Jabir as a gift to strengthen friendship in order to execute the required program and make the citizen hate his country.

Prisoners in Egypt Appeal to Human Rights Groups

JN0206194393 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1508 GMT 2 Jun 93

["Appeal from the Palestinian prisoners held in the jails of the Egyptian regime to human rights organizations, urging their intervention to obtain their release"; place and date not given]

[Text] When your sons, heroes of the intifadah and affiliated with various factions, refused to surrender themselves, they were extremely harassed by occupation troops throughout the homeland. Mindful of Egypt's militant history and given its geographic proximity, they were compelled to seek refuge in Egypt. We hoped that we would be able to transit Egyptian territory. We entertained the notion that we were heading toward Arab brethren who profess, on a daily basis, to be supportive of the intifadah. However, we were surprised by Egypt's [word indistinct] showing us thorns when they incarcerated us in jails, where we do not see the sun. Instead of allowing us to drink from the waters of the Nile River, they caused us further agony. We told them that our kinfolk have offered martyrs on the tiles of Jerusalem and the streets of Gaza, that we are the brothers of the deportees and fugitives, and that we sustained wounds during the intifadah. We informed them of the pains and tragedies caused to our children, women, elderly people, houses, and holy shrines by the Israeli occupation authorities. We told them a great deal. We only asked them for permission to transit Egyptian territory. However, all our efforts were to no avail. Handcuffed and blindfolded, they incarcerated us in jails, just as Israeli occupation troops and Israeli intelligence organs did.

This prompted us to liken our ordeal to the situation we experienced under Israeli occupation, repression, and oppression. Our pains were exacerbated by the fact that this was being perpetrated against us in an Arab state. We have become forgotten numbers in the registers of the Egyptian Prison Authority, along with those of murderers and criminals. What really drove us crazy was that we found that other Palestinians were being held in Egyptian jails. Some of them have spent over two and a half years in these jails; yet, there is no glimmer of hope regarding their release. Some of these Palestinian prisoners are suffering from serious diseases, not to mention the fact that others are experiencing a slow death. We, along with them, are suffering an excruciating pain because of the treatment being accorded to us by fraternal Arab Egypt.

We addressed messages in this regard to the Egyptian president through the Egyptian press, demanding our release. Similarly, we contacted human rights organizations. However, there is a shameful silence in Cairo.

O our kinfolk in the Arab homeland: We have not targeted Egyptian security. The following questions are increasingly haunting us: Who is responsible for our arrest? And who stands to benefit from our imprisonment?

O our kinfolk: We are enlightening you about our ordeal. Remember that you have brothers held in Egyptian jails. Likewise, remember that your brothers who are held in Egyptian jails are dying of hunger and oppression. Remember that they will continue to honor the pledge. If we are to die, we will die standing in the [word indistinct] of the Egyptian Government.

IDF Intelligence Officer Convicted of Spying

TA0306112293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] A major in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intelligence corps has been jailed in Israel on charges of spying and contacts with a foreign agent. The man, Major Yosi 'Amit, was given a 12-years sentence in 1987, but the affair was only made public today when the Supreme Court rejected his appeal against the sentence. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Although the Supreme Court has allowed the affair to be made public, not all the details are being released on security grounds, and so there are many questions still without answers. The man concerned, Yosef 'Amit from Haifa, was a major in the IDF Intelligence Corps when he was arrested and charged with spying for a foreign agent.

In March 1986 [year as heard], the Haifa District Court sentenced 'Amit to 12-years imprisonment, just three years less than the maximum sentence possible at that time. Since then changes in the law allow the courts to give convicted spies a maximum life-sentence, although no one is believed to have ever received such a sentence. In 1987, a year after being sent to jail, 'Amit appealed his 12-year sentence, but the appeal was finally rejected by the Supreme Court in 1989. Today, following the agreement of state and defense attorneys, as well as security officials, the court has allowed some details of the affair to be made public, although it's not clear why the decision was taken now, almost halfway through 'Amit's prison term.

No details are available either about which country 'Amit spied for or his motivation. But his lawyer, Shmu'el Tzang, says it was not Syria, nor indeed any state hostile to Israel. However, he doesn't say if the country involved was an enemy of Israel at the time that 'Amit carried out his spying. Tzang says that based on his close contacts and talks with his client, he is convinced that Yosef 'Amit is what he calls a positive person and a good Zionist. Either way, 'Amit is the most senior IDF officer known to have been charged and convicted for spying, and indeed, a man from the heart of the IDF's intelligence branch.

More Details on 'Amit

TA0306190793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1855 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent Rivka Neuman has learned that Yosef 'Amit's legal council, attorney Shmu'el Zang, has been taking action for some time to secure his release from prison on medical grounds. 'Amit is held in a prison psychiatric ward.

Two years ago, U.S. newspapers reported that Israel had offered to the United States the release of an intelligence officer arrested in Israel for spying for the United States. In exchange, Israel asked for the release of Jonathan Pollard, the reports stated. According to these reports, 'Amit had shown up at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv in early 1980's and offered his services to the Americans. They decided to employ him, although they thought he seemed eccentric.

Washington sources told our correspondent Ya'ir Stern tonight that, apparently, 'Amit had spied for a West European country, and not for the United States. [passage omitted]

Charges Against Convicted Spy Detailed

TA0306134893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 3

[Report by Uri Sharon]

[Text] Attorney Eliyahu Shmu'eli detailed at DAVAR's request the charges on which spy Yosi 'Amit was convicted: spying, violation of Clause 112 (A) of the penal code 1977: "Anybody who handed over information and planned to harm state security will be sentenced to 15 years imprisonment."

Clause 112 (B): "Whoever received, gathered, prepared, noted down, or possessed information and planned to harm state security, will be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment."

Aggravated espionage, a crime under Clause 113 (A): "Whoever transmits secret information when unauthorized to do so, will be sentenced to 15 years."

Clause 113 (B): "Whoever transmits secret information without being authorized to do so and planned to harm state security will be sentenced to life imprisonment. (Secret information is information whose contents, form, or the manner in which it is being kept indicate that state security calls for keeping it secret, or information on matters that the government, with the approval of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, has declared, through an order published in RESHUMOT [the government gazette], is secret)."

Contact with a foreign agent is an offense under Clause 114 (A): "Whoever knowingly holds contacts with a foreign agent and does not have an explanation for the action, will be sentenced to 15 years imprisonment."

An attempt to make contact with a foreign agent is an offense under Clause 114 (B): "If a person tries to make contact or visit the place of residence or employment of a foreign agent, or is found in his company or in possession of the name or address of a foreign agent, and does not have a reasonable explanation, his sentence will correspond to that of somebody maintaining contact with a foreign agent, (that is, 15 years imprisonment).

'Amit Interviewed

TA0306133493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] Following are excerpts of a series of interviews conducted by Zohara Ron, deputy editor of HA'IR, with convicted spy Yosi 'Amit in his prison.

Referring to 1986 newspaper reports about his trial, including spying for Syria, etc., 'Amit said: "After these bastards finished concocting their charge sheet—and they know how to do this very well—I was transferred to the Nitzan detention facility in Ramla. I was thrown into that place on purpose. If my file was so secret, why was I thrown into this gutter into which all of Israel's lowlife are channeled?

"Then, naturally, they also found the appropriate timing to publicize these reports in the press. Hayim Bar-Lev, who was police minister at the time, did not fail to mention to a Qol Yisra'el correspondent that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer who spied for Syria was apprehended, and that the police was investigating the incident. I am ashamed to tell you what I went through.... Incidentally, these reports were published even before the trial commenced.

"Even today I do not know what kind of trial I underwent, whether it was a civil or a military trial. The man who was actually in charge of the trial was an IDF field security officer. He attended all the court sessions. He lied, omitted, fabricated, and raised various theories concerning the possibility that I spied. Naturally, the group of monkeys who were responsible for the verdict (referring to judges Avraham Friedman, Malki'el Slutzky, and Kleinberger—Z.R.) swallowed these stories with relish.

"I hereby declare that I was never allowed to peruse the charge sheet in its entirety. I was never allowed to read the court minutes. I never saw the letter of appeal that was ostensibly submitted on my behalf. I never saw the testimony given by others. I only heard these things in court. I am even ashamed to call this place a court."

In 13 August 1988 'Amit wrote to attorney Amnon Zikhroni, who was his lawyer at the time: "The court acted in the manner of an ostrich burying its head in the sand, when it ignored details which were submitted to it. Regarding the recording (which was played during the trial)—the transcript was concocted. Yet despite this fact...it was possible to understand that there was no intention to transfer documents. Out of these concocted transcripts, the court adopts only the parts which blend with its version, while completely ignoring whatever contradicts this version...."

In the interview to HA'IR, 'Amit refers to harassment and threats directed against his friends and family: "My friends were warned not to approach me or my family and not to offer any help. Some of these friends were placed under surveillance. My wife was threatened, received harassing telephone calls, and suffered physical abuse. Her working place was approached with such questions as: 'Why are you employing a woman who is married to a Syrian spy?' In the wake of these newspaper reports, my father contracted cancer and Parkinson's disease. The doctors determined that the illnesses were caused by a certain trauma. Eventually his strength failed him, and he died."

'Amit also referred to the diagnosis of his mental illness, which was made in the 1970's: "Concerning these psychiatric evaluations, I am perfectly willing—even today, after six years of imprisonment—to undergo an examination by any psychiatrist to see whether even one iota of what is written in the diagnosis is true. This method of turning every persona non grata into a lunatic is very familiar. I am not the first victim of this method, and I will probably not be the last...And here is another thing to chew on: If I was judged insane up to my release from the Mizra' mental hospital, how could I have recovered to the point of receiving a university scholarship and a private investigator's license—and this was arranged by their initiative, not mine. It does not take a whole lot of effort to answer this question."

After a visit by a Shin Bet official in his jail cell, 'Amit wrote attorney Shmu'el Zang, his present lawyer: "It looks as though somebody is intentionally mixing things up, out of his own reasons—perhaps with the aim of legitimizing that bureaucratic procrastination that everybody is blaming, because it is the most convenient excuse."

Claims Authorities 'Framed' Him

TA0306192893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Yosef 'Amit, who was convicted of aggravated espionage and was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, claims that he is not a spy and that the authorities framed him. We have received a rare recording of his remarks made to Zohara Aharon, a correspondent for the HA'IR and KOLBO newspapers. We apologize for the poor quality of the recording:

[Begin 'Amit recording] I have a troubled conscience today. I feel as though I betrayed those things on which my father raised me, because I am full of hatred, I despise, I am full of rancor against the entire stinking establishment that supported this whole chain of events. I am not ashamed to declare this publicly. It is not over. It is very possible that I may perish before it ends, but it will end even after I have gone. I will not abandon principles and basic moral values. A handful of scum who run this country, or who think they run this country, and [three words indistinct] are today worried that their disgrace will be discovered in the wake of several shameful actions they have already committed. They are concerned that yet another story will be made public, and then their heads will roll, and they have good reason to fear that. [end recording]

Denies Allegations

TA0306131293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Several minutes ago, we received an update on remarks made by the intelligence officer who was convicted of espionage, Major Yosef 'Amit, in which he comments for the first time on the reports published about him in the media. Yosef 'Amit left his latest message on the electronic answering machine of Zohara Ron, a correspondent for the HA'IR and KOLBO weeklies. Here is Yosef 'Amit's message:

[Begin 'Amit recording] Good morning, Zohara. I would like to give you an official statement over the telephone that will be recorded on your answering machine. Following all the reports linked to the Pollard affair, I would like to say that I never visited the U.S. Embassy in Israel or anywhere else in the world. I do not know where the U.S. Embassy is located, except that it is somewhere in Tel Aviv. All these allegations are sheer crap. I am somewhat surprised that it is now being said that I spied for some European country. All we need now is some country in Asia in order to close the books. My suggestion is China. Goodbye for now. [end recording]

'Amit-Pollard Exchange Contacts Detailed

TA0306191893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Interview with Amnon Dror, head of the Public Committee for Jonathan Pollard, by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good day, Amnon Dror. In recent hours, people began tying what can now be termed the 'Amit affair to the Pollard affair. Is there a connection?

[Dror] This is a desirable connection. I will explain later, but with your permission, I would like to say something first. I feel it is very important that I stress here that I have not been empowered by any official person, institution, or organization to represent them in this matter. My connection to the issue stems from the length of time that the public committee and I have dealt with the Pollard affair, and I do not intend to disclose any details whatsoever that will not contribute to Pollard's early discharge.

The second thing is that now that the report has been officially and publicly released, I am appealing to the White House and to the Israeli Government to seize the opportunity to agree on some kind of a formula that will reduce the sentence of Pollard, who has been punished enough, having spent more than seven-and-a-half years in total isolation.

[Gay] Is it true that you initiated an 'Amit-Pollard exchange deal?

[Dror] I can hardly attribute this fine deed to myself alone, because it started with an anonymous letter I received two or three years ago—I cannot remember the precise date. I felt that the letter had been written by a serious, sober, and responsible person, and I felt he was very familiar with the issue. He wondered why the information he was relaying to me could not be used to try to secure a Pollard-'Amit exchange deal. I decided then and there to stash the thing and try quiet diplomacy, as they say, on the assumption that that was our only, or better, chance to secure a deal.

[Gay] And then you reached what you termed pertinent elements?

[Dror] I approached pertinent elements, as you said. With your permission, I will not go into detail about the discussion. What did happen was that they suggested that I get off the subject—I cannot recall whether it was for the time being or altogether.

[Gay] Why did they tell you to get off the subject?

[Dror] I do not know. I presume because they believed it was hopeless; they probably meant well. In any event, they suggested that I get off it, and even supported their suggestion with personal—some of them even added medical—reasons.

[Gay] Were they referring to 'Amit's health or Pollard's?

[Dror] 'Amit's, definitely. I must say that did not satisfy me at all, and I tried in my own ways to approach the elements who had apparently—judging by the verdict—operated 'Amit. They told me that they did not know what I was talking about. To make the story short, they said they did not know of anything like that, that they had not operated anyone, and that it would be better if our conversation had not taken place at all. I assumed that we—those concerned about Pollard, who believe that he absolutely deserves an early release— would some day be able to use this information, along with many other reasons supporting our argument for Pollard's early release.

We were almost getting to that when, a week or two ago, I was approached by a journalist, and I learned that he had all the material. He told me that he was writing a book and that these details would be featured in the book.

[Gay] An Israeli reporter?

[Dror] An Israeli. An Israeli who publishes his stuff abroad.

[Gay] What do you intend to do now?

[Dror] Being in close touch with people who are working for Pollard's early discharge on behalf of the authorities and on behalf of themselves—they are better versed in the issue than I—I assume that they will now try to officially approach the U.S. Government and ask for an exchange deal. To the best of my incomplete knowledge, no official action has been taken so far. The Americans have ignored the existence of a spy in Israel.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Amnon Dror.

[Dror] Thank you.

Government Sources Deny Reports

TA0306191793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 6

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Excerpt] Israel has not approached the United States on implementing an exchange deal in which the United States would release Jonathan Pollard, who was imprisoned for spying for Israel, in exchange for the release of Yosi 'Amit. This was said yesterday by senior government sources.

The sources termed reports on the possibility of such a deal between Israel and the United States "absurd."

The government sources said that during his service in the Northern Command's intelligence division, Major 'Amit was privy to intelligence material.

A senior Justice Ministry source also confirmed yesterday that there have been no contacts with the U.S. Administration on implementing a package deal in which Pollard would be freed in exchange for Yosi 'Amit. The source explained that the issue was made public at this time only as a result of an appeal to the High Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

Officials Hold 'Secret' Meeting With Jordanian Officials

TA0406053193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] A secret meeting of the highest Israeli and Jordanian levels, at which future Israeli-Jordanian relations, among other things, were discussed, was held two months ago in a European capital.

The meeting also discussed the connection between Jordan and residents of the West Bank and issues related to the economy of the territories until a permanent arrangement is achieved.

It is that meeting that led to the optimistic declaration by 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who said yesterday that an Israeli-Jordanian agreement can be reached within six months.

In the wake of the meeting, an Arab personality said that "the discussion between the top Israeli and Jordanian officials led to the assessment that an agreement between Amman and Jerusalem can be reached within hours." On the other hand, the Arab personality stressed that Jordan will not allow itself to sign a separate accord with Israel. [passage omitted]

Peres: Agreement 'More or Less' Reached

TA0406114593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0903 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Roni Daniyel on 4 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Daniyel] We hear reports that the Jordanians are certain that an arrangement or agreement with Israel can be attained within a few months.

[Peres] As a matter of fact, we do not have any really serious disputes with the Jordanians.

[Daniyel] Would you say they are the easiest nut to crack?

[Peres] Theoretically, agreements could be attained with Jordan and with Lebanon.

[Daniyel] Syria and the Palestinians remain on the other end of the spectrum.

[Peres] Look, it is more complicated with the Palestinians, but it is definitely not lost. In my opinion, an agreement with the Palestinians is imperative. Otherwise this open sore will continue to trouble all sides. I do not think an agreement can be attained with the entire Arab world without solving the Palestinian problem. The time has come for a solution to this problem, and there is no sense in putting it off. There are changing elements in this problem, such as demographics. Today there are 2 million Palestinians in the territories, and if we wait a little longer there will be 3 or 4 million. It would be best to solve it at this point.

[Daniyel] Could you tell us some more details about the understandings we reached with the Jordanians? You have talked about progress in the talks, and you confirm that they are the easiest nut to crack.

[Peres] We have more or less reached agreement with the Jordanians on all the points. However, several issues remain in dispute. For instance, take the question of water. At issue in the dispute is whether to revise the way water was or is being distributed or, instead, to proceed to discuss ways to increase the water supply. I say that instead of arguing over what has already been distributed, let us cooperate so that we may increase output and meet new demands. I believe that on this point, too, common sense will ultimately triumph over the urge to engage in political polemics.

We do not really have any disputes with Jordan over borders. We consider our border with Jordan to be based on the precedent set by the British mandate, and the Jordanians think likewise. We share the Dead Sea and the Red Sea. Actually, we also share the 'Arava region, because it is a sea of sand, if you like. The center of the 'Arava, an area of shifting sands, keeps moving from west to east. Therefore, in view of the geographical conditions and the topographical changes in land and

sea, we have no choice other than to coexist. If we want to save one of our most precious touristic resources, the Red Sea, I think we must relocate the ports of al-'Aqabah and Elat to the north by digging a canal. The Dead Sea obviously is a treasure trove, and we must attain cooperation on this issue as well. [passage omitted]

IEC Completes Plan for Nuclear Power Reactor Site

TA0306141793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p A1

[Report by environment affairs correspondent Eli El'ad]

[Text] The Israel Electric Corporation [IEC] has completed its final report about the suitability of the Shivta site, where it plans to set up the first Israeli nuclear power station.

The IEC intends to present the report for the approval of the Atomic Energy Commission's licensing board.

IEC Director General Moshe Katz has said: "I hope that after the report is submitted we will receive approval for the suitability of the Shivta site. Soon after this is done, we will begin the standard procedure of presenting our plans for the approval of the National Council for Construction and Planning."

Katz added that "this does not mean that we are about to set up the station there in the near future. We are following developments on the international market.

"I believe that when the political climate is appropriate, we will begin negotiations to construct and provide a nuclear power reactor," he said.

He added: "I believe that we will be unable to sign contracts for the purchase of a nuclear reactor for as long as Israel does not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

New Jewish Underground Reportedly Planning Attacks

TA0406092393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Jun 93 p 12

[Report by Nirit Zakh]

[Text] "We are the new Jewish underground. 'The Jewish Force' [Hakoah Hayehudi] will pursue the path taken by the Jewish underground, but with a better setup," according to A., the leader of the new underground movement.

The movement is made up of approximately 20 people from all parts of the country, young men aged about 20, some still doing their Army service. All have combat experience—some in elite units—and some are officers. The group has a large hoard of weapons, including grenades, revolvers, dynamite sticks, gunpowder, smoke grenades, and M-16's. "We do not identify with any political faction, not even with the Kakh movement," A. said.

Over the past two weeks, members of the underground met several times, each time at a different location, in order to draw up a work plan. The group's first aim is to torpedo the peace talks and to assassinate one of the leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks: Hanan 'Ashrawi or Sari Nusaybah.

Another plan is to capture Arab hostages and hold them until all the Jews imprisoned for attacks on Arabs—'Ami Popper and Yona Abrushmi, for example—are released.

"Our activity will be carried out not only in Judaea and Samaria but all over the country," A. said. "The first action, which will come soon, will be the most extreme and the toughest, and we will show everybody who we are. We will also hit the Muslim holy places."

'Contiguous' Settlement Around Qiryat Arba' Planned

TA0306140793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 4

[Report by Shlomo Dror]

[Text] The settlers are preparing a plan to increase security along the route used by Jewish worshipers in Hebron by creating a link of contiguous Jewish settlements from Qiryat Arba' to the Cave of the Patriarchs. Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has refused to approve the plan.

In recent years, the settlers have managed to purchase most of the houses and land in the area, which ranges from the southwestern part of Qiryat Arba' to the Cave of the Patriarchs. The settlers have so far refrained from entering the houses because they know the Army will evict them. In the next few months, they will begin to settle Giv'at Magav, which is situated opposite Qiryat Arba' and overlooks the route used by the worshipers.

Most of the houses on the worshipers' route are under the charge of the Custodian of Absentees' Property. Avraham Strock, a member of the Hebron settlers council, said that these houses were in the Juwayr neighborhood, in which most of the buildings, except for three, were abandoned. According to Strock, even if the three tenants refuse to leave their houses, they can be evicted by law.

Sources in the Emunim Movement reported that Brigadier General Moshe Ya'alon, the commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces in Judaea and Samaria, spoke in favor of the plan and even warmly recommended its implementation. However, on a tour of Hebron last Monday [31 May], Major General Nehemya Tamari, the commander of the Central Command, said that Rabin objected to the plan.

Residents of Qiryat Arba' said that if the plan is not implemented, the settlers will destroy those houses along the route that can be demolished and then move into the others as soon as the IDF stops its continuous patrols along the route.

Rabin Responds to Opponents of Golan Withdrawal

TA0406051793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that not coming down from the Golan Heights does not mean staying on all of the Heights. After receiving an honorary doctorate from Bar-Ilan University, Rabin commented on the stormy demonstration staged by opponents to withdrawal from the Golan Heights, who disrupted the ceremony. He also reacted to Rabbi Schach's attack against the government, saying he himself would not call any Jewish entity evil. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld spoke with Rabin.

[Begin recording] [Tuchfeld] Although he came to Bar-Ilan University to attend a festive ceremony in which he was awarded an honorary doctorate, Rabin was forced to listen to 200 opponents of withdrawal from the Golan Heights who demonstrated vociferously, clashed with policemen, and disrupted the ceremony. Rabin did not deny their right to demonstrate if they exercise it within certain rules, steer clear of violence, and do not disrupt ceremonies.

[Rabin] I am aware of the differences of opinion. I also think that their quotes are inaccurate.

[Tuchfeld] A statement of yours that is constantly quoted at demonstrations is that anybody talking about coming down from the Golan Heights is actually impairing Israel's security.

[Rabin] Have I come down? I was not the one who set the precedent of giving back the last square centimeter of the lands occupied in the Six-Day War in exchange for peace, and I have yet to give back even one centimeter.

[Tuchfeld] Are you saying that you will not?

[Rabin] I did not say that. I said that, at this stage, I would like you to show me where I committed myself to coming down from the Golan Heights. Not coming down does not mean staying on all of it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Military Source' on Effects of Closure

TA0306171193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Since the imposition of the closure on the territories, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has doubled the number of troops deployed in the territories. They main burden is shouldered by the standing army units. A senior military source has said that the IDF can endure this for many months. At the same time, the source noted that the training schedule of those units was definitely affected. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The early assessment that the closure would bring about a rise in riots and terror attacks was wrong, a senior military source told us today. He presented data that showed that during the three months of closure there were 187 terror attacks in Judaea and Samaria, while 200 attacks were registered in the three months prior to the closure. The number of terror attacks in the Gaza Strip dropped even more, mainly in the attacks with firearms: 126 attacks during the closure, 180 attacks in the previous three months. Since the closure was imposed, 121 fugitives have been captured or killed, have fled to Egypt, or have turned themselves in as a result of the IDF operations initiated in the territories.

The lion's share of the workload is shouldered by the standing IDF units, including the special forces. During the closure, the IDF has doubled the number of troops stationed in the territories. Dozens of units have been moved there. The majority of the units are engaged in securing settlements and in guard and escort duties. The special forces deal with the initiated activities.

An instruction was issued saying this is the Army's current task, the source stressed. This does place a heavy workload on the Army, but the Army will be able to endure it for many months. Nevertheless, the training schedule of those units is certainly affected. This is today's war, which is why the scope of standing troops deployed in the territories and Lebanon this year will remain larger than it has been for many years. This places a burden on the Army; it is difficult, and it has its price. This is what we have an Army for, and it is the army's duty to provide solutions for the security problems, even if it is not easy. Still, we have no intention of prolonging the service of reserve soldiers in view of the extensive workload, the military source stressed.

New IDF Commanders Appointed for Gaza, West Bank

TA0406073993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The appointment of new commanders in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria has been approved. Brigadier General Sha'ul Mofaz will replace Brigadier General Moshe Ya'alon as commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea and Samaria. Brigadier General Doron Almog, currently the chief paratrooper and infantry officer, will replace Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami' as commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip.

Peres on Role of Economics in Regional Peace

TA0406103593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Jun 93 p 31

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that politics is one of the main factors holding up agreements with Western Europe. Peres, who addressed the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday, said that there has recently been no dramatic change in this area and that it will take more time because administrative and parliamentary procedures are involved.

Peres added that his ministry believes economics should be given top priority because Western Europe today is an enormous and competitive market. He also said that Israel ranks Asia highly, "but this is a superficial and short-term view. Our terms are old-fashioned. The problem is not investments but marketing. We should provide credit and guarantees for projects abroad and should set up joint projects."

Deputy Director General 'Oded 'Eran said that formal negotiations on trade accords with Europe will begin in October-November 1993. 'Eran expressed the hope that an accord with the EC will be signed next year. He noted that five issues will be raised: trade, services, government purchases, research and development, and agriculture. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Peres also referred to the closure on the territories, saying: "We made a mistake when we adopted the closure mentality instead of the bridge mentality. We must not lose our perspective due to security considerations. We must try to achieve political separation but with economic partnership. The territories must be a bridge between Israel and the Arab world." Peres also said that if there is no economic peace, there will be no security peace, adding that $6 billion can be saved annually by linking the electricity grids of Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.

Estonian Minister Offers Lease on Baltic Port

TA0306173193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The Estonian construction minister arrived in Israel two days ago, without the Israeli Government knowing of his arrival. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the Estonian minister, Vladimir Vayngort [title as heard], conferred today with Arye Gamli'el, deputy construction and housing minister, and, among other things, offered Israel a lease on a port on the Baltic as part of the economic ties the two countries will establish. The guest also offered to export to Israel materials such as wood, aluminum, steel, concrete, and marble at attractive prices.

Agreement Signed With India on Expanding Trade Ties

TA3105192993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] An agreement was signed in Tel Aviv to exchange information and expand trade ties between India's Export Institute and Israel's Chambers of Commerce. At the meeting with the Indian delegation visiting Israel, the sides looked into the possibility of Indian firms setting up plants in Israel to produce exports to the United States and Europe and Israeli companies setting up plants in India to produce exports to its neighboring states.

India To Mediate Contacts With Sri Lanka

TA0206151693 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Jun 93 p 2

[Text] India will mediate between Israel and Sri Lanka with a view toward establishing political relations between the two countries. The Indian minister of state for external affairs said this in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Indian minister also promised to assist in the attempts to locate the navigator Ron Arad in Lebanon.

The director general of the Indian External Affairs Ministry said that India is about to establish a national antiterror center, and that it will appeal for Israeli aid in this issue.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told correspondents that the Indian leadership is concerned about Iran's support for Islamic fundamentalism. There are approximately 150 million Muslims in India.

The Indian minister of state for external affairs promised to act to bring about a change in India's voting trend in international organizations. So far India's votes have been pro-Arab and anti-Israeli.

Al-Majali, al-Husayni on 9th Round, Coordination

JN0306160593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry at noon today Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

At the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress of the negotiation process was made and the ninth round of talks was assessed.

Both sides expressed their eagerness to continue Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Dr. al-Majali and al-Husayni also reviewed the issues that the foreign ministers of the Arab countries bordering Israel would discuss at their meeting, due to be held in Amman on 6 June.

At the outset of the meeting, al-Husayni congratulated al-Majali on being selected to form the government and on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

Also attending the meeting were: Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Meeting With U.S. Consul Discussed

JN0306185193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation, reviewed the negotiation process and assessed the ninth round of talks at a meeting held today in the Prime Ministry.

Both sides expressed their eagerness to continue Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Dr. al-Majali and al-Husayni also discussed the issues that the foreign ministers of the Arab countries bordering Israel would discuss at their meeting, due to be held in Amman on 6 June.

At the outset of the meeting, al-Husayni congratulated al-Majali on being selected to form a new government and on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

Faysal al-Husayni spoke to Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our political affairs correspondent, about his meeting with his excellency the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] We reviewed the situation in general, the latest developments, particularly in the occupied territories, and the pressures exerted on the Palestinian people. We also spoke about the political negotiation process, and the possibility and importance of developing Palestinian-Jordanian coordination.

[Dhiyab] Mr. al-Husayni, yesterday, you had a meeting with the U.S. consul in Jerusalem. What did you discuss at that meeting?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the meeting was, at the request of the U.S. consul, held in the Orient House. The meeting discussed some U.S. questions about our views on the next stage of talks and what can take place at the foreign ministers' meeting. For our part, we explained the situation in the occupied territories, the pressures being exerted, and the U.S. role in eliminating these obstacles and pressures.

[Dhiyab] What will you present at, and what do you expect from your forthcoming meeting in Washington?

[Al-Husayni] You know that there is a U.S. invitation for a Palestinian delegation to visit Washington before the negotiations. If this visit is made, the talks will basically deal with the Palestinian paper, which was presented during the eighth round, the U.S. viewpoints on this paper, and the role the United States can play in advancing the process in its capacity as a full partner. Of course, before this, we have to fully explain our position, and complete the incomplete points of our criticism of the U.S. paper, which, in fact, we believe cannot be the focus of discussion in the future, especially since this paper has been, from the very beginning, a paper that serves a certain moment, as the United States has stated. I believe, this moment has passed, though we still believe that the paper was presented in an unsound manner, and contained an Israeli position more than a U.S. position.

[Dhiyab] Do you have specific ideas concerning the forthcoming coordination meeting, which will be held in Amman?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I think that, first of all, the Palestinian delegation will explain what it achieved during these negotiations, the problems we faced, and the achievements realized. We also want to hear what took place on the other Arab fronts so that our decision concerning the 10th round will be based on the Arab interest in a comprehensive manner, and not the result of progress or lack of progress by any one negotiation team. [end recording]

Afghanistan

Islamabad Reports Mojahedin Agree to Peace Pact

BK0306153893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Reports from Kabul say rival mojahedin groups have agreed to a peace pact, ending the two-week fierce fighting that claimed hundreds of lives. According to APA [AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY], the peace pact comes after Jalalabad agreement which envisages a mechanism for cabinet formation [and] to settle other allied matters pertaining to allocation of portfolios. Diplomatic observers in Kabul view the latest peace accord as yet another opportunity for the Afghan leaders to implement the Jalalabad Accord which guarantees peace and reconstruction in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

* Hekmatyar Cabinet List Published

93P50207A

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic of 21 May 1993 on pages 1 and 4 carries a report from Jalalabad containing a list of cabinet members appointed by Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on 20 May. They are as follows:

Nurollah 'Ammad, of Borhanoddin Rabbani's Jam'iat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], was appointed agriculture minister; Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, of 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], is minister of city planning; Hashmetollah Mojaddedi, of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Melli [National Liberation Front], is civil aviation minister; Hayyetollah Belaghi, of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], is trade minister; Jalilollah Zadeh, of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi's Hezb-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], is education minister; 'Abdol Karim Kalili, of Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], is finance minister; Hedayetollah Amin Arslan, of Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani's Mahaz-e Melli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], is minister of frontiers and tribes; Arslan Rahmani, of Mohammadi's Hezb-e Enqelab-e Eslami, is minister for the hajj and awqaf (religious endowments); Mohammad Amin Fatimi, of the Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Melli, is health minister; Seyyed 'Umar, of the Ettehad-e Eslami, is higher education minister; Hajji Din Mohammad, of Yunes Khales' Hezb-e Eslami, is information and culture minister; Jalaloddin Haqqani, of Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Melli, is justice minister; Qazi Amin Waqqad, of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, is communications minister; Mohammad 'Ali Javid, of 'Asef Mohseni's Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], is planning minister; Fayyez Mohammad, of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, is reconstruction minister; Faruq A'zam, an independent, is reugee repatriation minister; Seyyed Anwari, of Mohseni's Harakat-e Eslami, is social affairs minister; Mohammad Ayyub, of Rabbani's Jam'iat-e Eslami, is water and electricity minister; Borhanoddin Rabbani is chairman of the defense committee; and Golboddin Hekmatyar is chairman of the interior committee.

India

Security Forces on 'Full Alert' in Bombay

BK0306151293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] In Maharashtra, security arrangements have been beefed up in Bombay City following the murder of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Premkumar Sharma, on Tuesday. Each MP and MLA in the city has been provided with two security men, including a gunman, from today. Besides the state police, the Army and paramilitary forces have been placed on full alert. Parts of the city continue to be tense following some untoward incidents during the funeral procession of Mr. Premkumar Sharma yesterday. The police authorities have said that the situation is well under control now. Police are on the trail of the two killers who gunned down the BJP leader.

'Top-Ranking' Punjab Militant Arrested 2 Jun

BK0306161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] A top-ranking militant of an outlawed militant organization in Punjab was arrested by the police from Azadpur Mandi in Northwest Delhi yesterday. According to agency reports, the militant, identified as Baljeet Singh, fired a shot at the police before he was overpowered. According to police sources, Baljeet used to visit the area to extort money from transporters and businessmen. A stengun and 11 cartridges were recovered from him.

'Hard-Core Criminal' Arrested in Gujarat

BK0406033893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] In Gujarat, a hard-core criminal from Bombay, Karzansar Ali Raza Jafar Ali, said to be a close associate of the Dubayy-based underworld don, Dawood Ibrahim, was arrested in Surat yesterday. A U.S. made rifle along with 20 live cartridges were recovered from his possession.

Tribunal Upholds Ban on Vishwa Hindu Parishad

BK0406081993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The one-man tribunal headed by Mr. Justice P.K. Bahari has upheld the ban on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] but cancelled the ban on the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and the Bajrang Dal. The tribunal which went into the validity of the ban on the three organizations observed that there are sufficient cause for declaring the VHP to be unlawful. But it said that

sufficient cause was not there for declaring the RSS and the Bajrang Dal as unlawful.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0739 GMT on 4 June adds: "An Indian judge on Friday upheld a government ban on a militant Hindu group, two days before it planned to oppose a planned 'exorcism' prayer meeting near the site of the demolished Babri mosque.

"Judge P.K. Bahri, however, let stand a court decision that last month that had lifted the ban on two other Hindu parties blamed for the demolition of the 16th-century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya on December 6.

"'There is sufficient cause for declaring the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Forum) unlawful,' the judge said told the court, which has held a total of 48 sittings since the mosque's razing.

"The verdict came two days before influential Hindu guru Chandraswami's planned controversial 'prayer by fire' aimed at exorcising the Babri site of the violence unleashed after the razing of the Moghul-built mosque.

"The VHP opposes the prayer meeting of Chandraswami, who is close to India's leadership, calling the two-day event a ploy to dismantle a makeshift temple the Hindu militants built on the remains of the mosque.

"Hundreds of troops are presently guarding Ayodhya, 700 kilometres (420 miles) north of New Delhi, amid fears that rival Hindu groups could clash over the exorcism, triggering further rioting and Hindu-Muslim bloodshed."]

Ganga Action Plan for River Clean-Up Launched

BK0406083093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] A 423 crore rupee project to clean the rivers Jamuna and Gumti will be launched in the capital tomorrow on the occasion of the first post-Rio World Environment Day. The minister for environment and forests, Mr. Kamal Nath, will formally launch the scheme.

The project planned as part of the Ganga Action Plan is to be executed in 15 major towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi with Japanese assistance. The estimated cost of the Jamuna component is 357 crore rupees and that of Gumti 64 crores.

Oil Corporation Chairman Suspended

BK0406083893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation, IOC, Mr. K.N. Venkatasubramaniam, has been suspended on charges of grave misconduct. A Petroleum Ministry spokesperson said in New Delhi today that Mr. Venkatasubramaniam was allegedly leaking sensitive information on purchase of crude oil. He further said that disciplinary proceedings against Mr. Venkatasubramaniam will start soon.

Pakistan Said Planning To Use 'Afghans' in Kashmir

BK0306124793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 May 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—Moves are afoot by Pakistan to induct in the Kashmir valley Arab volunteers who fought against the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, according to highly placed sources here.

Ahout 5,000 of these volunteers, described as "criminals and thieves" by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, have stayed back in Peshawar (Pakistan) after the fall of the Najibollah Government in adjoining Afghanistan. Official sources here indicated that in Pakistan the Islamic Jamat-e-Tulha was trying to induct the Arabs into the Valley with the objective of training local youth and fomenting trouble.

Wittingly or unwittingly the short-lived caretaker government in Pakistan has let the cat out of the bag. Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari said in Islamabad on Tuesday that the Indo-Pakistan border being large and porous some of those who were in Kashmir might have earlier fought in Afghanistan and had now filtered back into Kashmir. "The Indian Army, which I believe has five divisions over there (Kashmir), if it cannot stop these people from coming in and bringing in this material help how can you expect us to stop this?", Mazari said.

Mazari's assertion coincides with the increasing visibility of Afghans in the Valley, and the training being given by them to pro- Pakistan terrorist outfits, Hizbul Mojahedin (HM) and Harkat-ul- Mojahedin (HuM). Imtiaz Ahmed Butt, a Pakistan citizen who was arrested in Sopore on February 2, has told intelligence agencies that during his stay in the Valley he had come in contact with five persons from Saudi Arabia.

At least in five encounters during the last eight months, the Afghans have been directly involved. In the first encounter on September 26, four Afghans associated with militant outfit Al-Barq were killed in an encounter with the Army in Kupwara. Three days later, one more was killed in an inter-gang clash in the same district. One Afghan was killed while infiltrating into the Poonch area of Jammu region on February, two associated with the HuM were killed in Baramullah on March 18 and one, Abu Baker, believed to the chief instructor of the HuM, in Sopore on March 30. Interrogation of an arrested Afghan national Sheikh Jamal-ud-Din has revealed that they came as mercenaries.

Arab volunteers had found their way to Peshawar in the early 1980s to use it as a launching pad for the "holy war" against the Soviet aggression.

U.S. Policy on Pakistan, Kashmir Criticized

BK0306123093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Commentary by OBSERVER correspondent C.K. Bannerjee: "Will USA Declare Pakistan a Terrorist State?"]

[Text] The chances of America declaring Pakistan a terrorist in any immediate future are far from remote. It is not because Pakistan has stopped sponsoring terrorism across the border, but because USA has its own shady past in sponsoring terrorism, and partly, Pakistan is still U.S. ally, including member of NATO. [sentence as heard]

The USA Central Intelligence Agency's role in training fundamentalist terrorists in Afghanistan, supplies of most modern and sophisticated arms to Peshawar-based terrorist organizations and training to oust erstwhile USSR troops, and later removing Dr. Najibollah's regime is worth recalling, for which the world is still paying the price of recurring terrorist incidents. The Afghan, Syrian, and Sudanese terrorists who are infiltrating in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan] are trained by Pakistan at the demand of CIA.

The CIA's role pales in comparison to the damage done when the Reagan and the Bush administrations permitted Pakistan to acquire U.S. nuclear technology and then broke the law by hiding from Congress what they knew about Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear warheads. Despite protests from India, USA had till recently been certifying Pakistan assistance and gifting of modern arms by giving a certificate that Pakistan does not have nuclear technology to develop nuclear bombs.

The shift in USA policy on Kashmir and certain observations made in New Delhi by the U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Bureau of South Asian Affairs, Mr. John R. Malott, is another indication that in any near future USA is not going to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. For India, it is not important whether someone is convinced or not, but the fact remains that there existed incontrovertible evidence of certain things which led Indian Government to a definite conclusion about Pakistan's involvement in Bombay blasts. In fact, India had been expecting U.S., being a democratic country, to have a better understanding of India by taking all relevant factors into account, such as India's democracy and secular polity, its open society, and the special problems created by the state sponsorship of terrorism by Pakistan in Kashmir and Punjab.

During his visits to India and Pakistan, John Malott had amplified his even-handed approach to India and Pakistan. He acknowledged that American concerns with the two countries could be different and could affect them differently. Instead of censuring Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in India, he only told Pakistani leaders that Washington valued its relations with Islamabad and wanted to move ahead if the latter would put the arming of and help to militants in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country behind it. He was more than clear that to the Clinton administration, the Pressler Amendment which barred military and economic aid to Pakistan was no bar to joint military exercises, close cooperation, and high-level visits between the two countries. He wanted India to follow policies tailored to perceived American interests.

A reading of U.S. Administration's South Asia policy document of 7th May and Mr. Malott's testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 28 April are clear indications that America would not oblige India by declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. The policy statement does not castigate Pakistan for aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir. Instead, it says that the U.S. intends action by both states to ease support for militants who commit terrorist acts in the other. Mr. Malott said in New Delhi, quite bluntly, that the U.S. is not convinced about Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay blasts of 12 March.

Instead of seeking Pakistan attack on Kashmir in 1948, 1965, and 1971, the U.S. resolution demanding Pakistan to vacate Indian Kashmir as a precondition for plebiscite under conditions of Simla agreement under which India returned Pakistan territory and POWs captured in 1971 war, the USA thinks Kashmir as a principal factor of the India-Pakistan divide—hence the importance of resolving the conflict in Kashmir. [sentence as heard]

Malott's formulation that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory is one of the main thrusts of the State Department's South Asia policy. Pakistan may welcome the U.S. recognition that Kashmir is a disputed territory, but both Pakistan and India would shrink away from the prospect of a united, federal or confederal, fully autonomous Kashmir and its security guaranteed by both countries and the UN Security Council. Again, what about China-occupied Kashmir territory that Pakistan gifted to China? Though India has tried to explain clear Pakistan hand in militancy in Kashmir to Mr. Malott and Miss Robin Raphel, the American Embassy's first secretary who was on a four-day visit to Kashmir last week, yet there are no chances of a bold step of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state by America. India will have to adopt an offensive policy in Kashmir to contain militancy and seek a political solution.

Iran

President Warns Against 'Suppressing' Muslim Nations

LD0306142493 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday [3 June] blamed arrogant powers for turning a blind eye to the realities of the

Muslim world and taking revenge on Bosnian and Palestinian Muslims because of their inability to confront Iran.

"Those who are suppressing Muslim nations under the pretext of fundamentalism, massacring their peoples because of upholding the banner of Islam and accusing Muslims of having links with Iran, are mistaken...they are repeating the shah's experience," he said.

The president was addressing a group of prominent foreign personalities now in Iran for the ceremonies commemorating the 4th anniversary of the demise of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni. The president, saying that such accusations had temporary effects, advised leaders of Muslim countries to learn a lesson from the shah's fate and come to terms with their nations. "this will be in their interest," he added.

Referring to the 1980-88 war, imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime, he said "it was not Iraq alone which fought against us. The money, information and weapons of the U.S., western industrialized countries and Arab reactionary regimes were all put at the service of the Iraqi regime." Despite all this, the president added, Iran continued to advance both in political and military fronts to an extent that it has frustrated the enemies in all their attempts against the Islamic Republic.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani paid a glowing tribute to the late Imam Khomeyni, describing him as one of the "rare personalities of history" and an "exception in contemporary era." Despite extensive propaganda launched by the enemies of Islam, the late Imam Khomeyni proved that Islam is capable of administering the whole world, Rafsanjani said. "Not only we have no difficulty in running the country according to the Islamic laws, we have numerous advantages other communities do not enjoy," the president said.

Ahmad Khomeyni Attends Anniversary Ceremony

LD0306132493 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late Imam Khomeyni, said unlike all world revolutionaries, the late Imam was intransigent both before and after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He made the remark at a ceremony marking the fourth anniversary of the demise of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, here Wednesday [2 June].

A large number of high-ranking domestic and foreign political, scientific and cultural dignitaries were present at the ceremony.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said that the Imam favoured establishment of links with the world countries provided that they did not intend to commit treason against the Islamic Republic.

"This is contrary to what some think that the Imam single-handedly wanted to become engaged in a campaign against the world. Imam's only condition was that foreigners should not interfere in our internal affairs and we should not depend on them," he said.

The late Imam was highly sensitive to the fate of the world Muslims and emphatically stressed the responsibility of the Islamic Republic in defending and protecting the Muslims, the Imam's son noted.

Firmness of Imam's stands is manifested in his edict on the apostate Indian-born British author, Salman Rushdie, he said, adding that the Imam's path will continue.

"To describe the U.S. Administration as the enemy of Muslims was among Imam's ideas, with no precedent in the world. Therefore, today in the absence of the Imam and in continuation of his path by his competent followers, the world witnesses that Imam's path is being trodden upon in Iran. This has prompted the U.S. officials to react. Our opposition to Israel and our support for the Palestinians and for all the oppressed nations is the continuation of the same path," the Hojjat ol-Eslam concluded.

In a related development some 600 foreign guests here to attend the ceremonies in commemoration of the Imam's demise, took part in a round table discussion on the ideas of the Imam and the issue of hajj, Wednesday afternoon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hashemi, a member of Imam Khomeyni's bureau, told the gathering that the Imam gave prime importance to programs to protect and free Muslims from foreign cultural assaults and on "deliverance from pagans".

Millions Attend Mourning Ceremonies

LD0406134393 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—The Iranian nation today mourned the fourth anniversary of the passing away of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni.

Millions of people took part in mourning ceremonies held in various parts of the country today to mark the occasion. Over 150 foreign personalities and 2,000 foreign guests are here to take part in the ceremonies.

Over 100 reporters representing various mass media of the world have also travelled to Iran to cover the ceremony.

Groups of black-clad mourners while beating their chests gathered at the holy shrine of the late Imam south of Tehran since early hours of the morning.

The disabled of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war, some of them in wheelchairs, as well as former prisoners of war were also present at the holy shrine.

Black flags were hoisted at most streets leading to the holy shrine while publicity posters of the presidential candidates and Imam's statements urging people to take part at elections were seen here and there.

The streets in the vicinity of the holy shrine were jam-packed with buses carrying people to the holy shrine.

Holding such a massive ceremony after four years since the decease of the Imam indicates that people's love for the Imam has remained ever stronger.

A considerable number of makeshift coaches and tents were utilised to serve water, sweet drinks, fruits and food while field clinics provided medical and hygienic services.

Slogans chanted by the people and read on their placards indicated that Islamic Iran will continue the path of the late Imam and follow the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Small book fairs were set up near the holy shrine selling books about Imam's personality and the achievements of the Islamic Revolution culminated in 1979 under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

Shops were closed here today and there was no sign of routine activities.

Heads of the three powers, members of the Council of Guardians, a group of cabinet ministers, Majles deputies as well as civil and military officials were also present at the ceremony.

A representative of the Armenian community at the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) along with Bishop Gorgen Nersian placed a wreath of flowers on the tomb of Imam Khomeyni as a token of the Armenian community's respect for the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an interview with IRNA at Imam Khomeyni's shrine he said that the Armenian Iranians had actually realized Imam Khomeyni's true stature during his years of exile out of Iran. He said due to his struggles against the ruling powers, Imam Khomeyni is loved by all peoples of the world irrespective of their religion.

Also, the Armenian Majles deputy Vartan Vartanian said that Imam Khomeyni had recognized the rights of the religious minorities in Iran and had even gone so far as to offer them certain guidances in his last will and testament. He said mention of discriminations against the minorities in Iran was purely antagonistic of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He recommended that those who harbor such convictions would do better to refer to the text of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and find out for themselves the constitutional rights awarded to religious minorities.

Professor of Islamic studies at the Islamic Institute of Mozambique Sheikh Mohammad Rokneddin said to IRNA here that Imam Khomeyni had demonstrated to the world Muslims that the only way out of their problems is to return to their Islamic identity.

Rokneddin said that a large group of Muslims in that country adhere to Imam Khomeyni's ideology but because of poverty and also because of the vast propaganda of Christian missionaries in that country it is necessary that the Islamic Republic do more than it has for helping Muslims there.

He said Imam Khomeyni will continue to glitter as a valuable gem in the history of Islam.

Referring to the demonstrations in Mecca in condemnation of the ungodly powers of the world he said that the hajj ritual is one form of struggle against one's own carnal desires and that the condemnation of the unbelievers is an underlying principle of the hajj which must be performed in its full form.

Secretary General of the National Federation of Muslims in France Sharif Anjai said to IRNA that Imam Khomeyni was the personality that had returned Islam to its true identity in the 20th century and had given honor and dignity and prestige to the world Muslims.

Leader of Friday congregational prayers in Turkmenistan Mohammad Avazov said that he was glad to see the large assembly of people who were participating in the mourning ceremonies. He said the people of Turkmenistan badly needed literature on Islam and especially copies of the works of Imam Khomeyni in order to better familiarize themselves with the faith.

Nasser Nasseri, from Kashmir who is a theological student in Qom told IRNA that the Islamic Revolution in Iran had left a great impact in Kashmir insofar as it relates to the performance of religious duties and the Islamic hijab for women.

He said people in Kashmir were fond of Imam Khomeyni and that today they carry out his recommendations. He said the presence in the mourning ceremonies of a group of youth from Kashmir was an indication of their respect for Imam Khomeyni.

Meanwhile groups of mourners coming from various parts of the country arrived here today. Among them was also a group of Iraqi Kurds who had trekked a three-day clandestine journey from Iraq's Kurdistan to Iran on foot. They carried banners inscribed with slogans in condemnation of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

They said their presence in Tehran was to be interpreted as a token of their adherence to Imam Khomeyni and to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Kurds of Iraq said they looked forward to the Islamic Republic to continue help to the Kurds of Kurdistan of Iraq.

Professor of Islamic theology at Jalil School in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mulla Haji Mohammadi said that the demonstrations in condemnation of the ungodly powers is an inherent part of the hajj ritual and that it must be performed with full ceremony.

Pakistani religious scholar Seyed Nasser Hussain condemned Saudi Arabia's prevention of the scheduled antipathy rally in Mecca last week. He said it is a duty of pilgrimming Muslims to unmask the enemies of the Muslim ummah and to condemn them at a grand ceremony such as that of the hajj.

Dr. Sa'id Mohammad Shahabi editor of the Arabic weekly AL-ALAM printed in London said that Imam Khomeyni was a unique personality of the Muslim world and the entirety of the human history for that matter. He said Imam Khomeyni had such a stature that even his personal enemies admitted.

Paper Says Saudi Ban 'Dented' Kingdom's Credibility

LD0306203093 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—The morning daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' wrote here Thursday that even though the Saudis banned the rejection of disbeliever's rally, Islamic Iran has emerged stronger and more influential with the world's Muslim community.

It said that "by prohibiting the congregation from declaring its disengagement from infidels, the Saudi authorities lent extra weight to Iran's stance on confronting arrogant powers who seek to curtail the revival of genuine Islam."

The move convinced many people that the Saudi regime does not favour Islamic solidarity and brotherhood and further dented the kingdom's credibility at home and abroad, giving fresh ammunition to Saudi and non-Saudi Arabs who see King Fahd's regime as seriously violating all standards of human rights, it added.

It further noted that as if to subject Riyadh to diplomatic pressure "to keep its distance from Islamic Iran", the Clinton administration in recent weeks has unleashed a media campaign against Saudi Arabia, highlighting human rights violations there.

Expressing wonder over the issue, the article commented that it was a bit difficult to attach credence to "the sudden change" in the U.S. policy, considering its usual disregard for the human rights of Muslims. The article went on to say that even the most naive Saudi citizen would not believe that America was worried about the rights of the Saudi people.

It warned the Fahd regime of futility of, and the danger resulting from, friendship with America, pointing to the destiny of many pro-American rulers in the Muslim world, such as the Shah of Iran, "who created and deepened the gulf between them and their subjects" because of their unholy alliance with the superpower.

Barring pilgrims from fulfilling their religious-political obligations is not in the best interest of the Saudi monarchy. Similarly, provoking Iranian and other worshipers at the house of Allah or abusing the religious sanctities of the global Muslim society is not what common sense demands of the al-Saud family, it continued.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated its policy of maintaining normal relations with all countries, especially Muslim nations," the article asserted.

Referring to the Iranian foreign minister's good will tour of six Persian Gulf states, the article stated that the message of these trips was that the Islamic understanding and building ties in the interest of all Muslim masses should take precedence over all other concerns.

"Now it is up to the Saudi leaders to decide whether their country's future lies with the decaying and opportunistic U.S.-led western camp or in maintaining a logical relationship with a strong and Islamic Iran," the daily concluded.

Mohtashemi Views U.S. 'Avarice,' Other Issues

NC0406065593 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 May 93 pp 1, 10

[Second and last part of an interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, former ambassador to Syria, Tehran Majles deputy, and member of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] In your opinion, would the government be more successful if it were to insist on the pure stance of the Islamic revolution in its foreign policy or if it were to exercise greater flexibility and to renege on its stance?

[Mohtashemi] The answer to this question is quite clear. There is only one point that should be noted here, and that is the performance of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government over the last three to four years.

During this period, unfortunately, Iranian foreign policy has not emphasized the pure stances of the revolution. If in certain cases there was some emphasis, it was on the declaration of the stance by the great leader of the revolution ['Ali Khamene'i].

An example is the Salman Rushdie issue. In view of the great leader's personal insistence on it, this issue has remained important. In certain other cases, it is regrettable that we have backtracked on our stances. At one time, when Iran had agreed to use its prestige [preceding word in English] to help release Western hostages in Lebanon, the terms and conditions should have been stipulated by the president and the Foreign Ministry,

directly or indirectly. For example, they should have said that if Iran was to use its influence and prestige to help free the hostages, Iran's assets frozen in the United States should be released and handed over.

Well, this was one of the demands and conditions spelled out in our foreign policy, and I warned everyone about it at that time. The majority of the Islamic Majles deputies in the Majles' third term also warned the government and the Foreign Ministry about this issue. In my opinion, this kind of approach is not appropriate for the Islamic revolution's system, as it contravenes all the revolution's criteria and principles.

We cannot link the destiny of a nation with our own material interests. The Muslim people of Lebanon have endured extreme difficulties at the hands of the Western colonialists, especially the United States. The United States and the West have perpetrated innumerable crimes in Lebanon; the offspring of the country of Lebanon have been imprisoned by the West, Israel, and the United States. For them, there was no other way to save their country and their offspring except by choosing the path of Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the world. Should we now abuse the love that these people had for Imam Khomeyni and the revolution? Should we ask or order them to act in contravention of their interests? Should they carry out some task in Lebanon that contradicts the pure criteria of the revolution and the imam's mode of thought?

Unfortunately, this advice was not acceptable to the ministries and government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who thought that if they tread their own path it would placate the enemy or mitigate the inimical actions by the United States and the West against Iran.

They did what they should not have done and gained nothing, while the enemy became further emboldened and its attacks against the Iran's interests increased. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself said in his interview with the U.S. magazine TIME that even though it was through our influence and wishes that the Western hostages in Lebanon were released, the tone of the United States and the White House changed and became even more harsh than before.

Therefore, forsaking any of the pure stances of the revolution fails to bring concomitant material benefits for Iran, it merely serves to make the enemy more audacious and to increase his encroachment on the domain of Islam, the Islamic revolution, and even on Iran itself.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is the link between issues and events such as the decree against Salman Rushdie and the alternating highs and lows in our relations with some Western countries (such as Britain, etc.)? What is your analysis of such issues?

[Mohtashemi] The varying approaches by the West and the powers of world arrogance are most certainly formulated in accordance with the policies of Iran. It is not as if the foreign policy of the West is the same toward all Third World countries, especially Iran.

Prior to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency, international foreign policy was clearly drawn along the lines of Eastern and Western countries and Arab and non-Arab countries. [passage omitted]

When the imam issued the decree to execute the apostate Salman Rushdie, the European Community and heads of Western countries convened an extraordinary session and collectively decided to sever their relations with Iran and to recall their respective ambassadors.

They thought that this concerted action would defeat the revolutionary will of the leader and the nation, and therefore they summoned their ambassadors as well. Of course, inside our government there also were certain elements who had failed to comprehend the depth of the revolution's strength and to gauge the extent of the honor and prestige of the Iranian system or that of the resistance and fortitude of the imam. They were overwhelmed with intense fear and thought that our political situation in the world had been gripped by crisis and that henceforth we would encounter immense difficulties.

They embarked on a series of erroneous measures and strove to project as unimportant the politico-divine decree, which had plunged the powers of world arrogance into a state of fear and had united the Islamic world. They thought that in this way they would be able to mitigate the sensitivity of the West and of the enemies of Islam toward Iran, unaware that the enemy was contemplating designs for annihilating Islam. Such were the people who embarked on criticizing the imam's divine decree. [passage omitted]

The fact that our relations with the West are characterized by numerous vicissitudes is related to the fact that the West believes that our foreign policy will change if they intimidate and tempt Iranian officials. Therefore, they use these carrot-and-stick tactics in their relations with Iran.

They show a little indulgence, speak in friendly tones, and try to lure the Iranian Government into taking a step toward the West, Britain, or the United States. When Iran does take a step in this direction, it receives a hard slap in the face so that the seed of fear and intimidation of the powers of world arrogance is sown in the hearts of Iranian officials.

Once again, after a day or two, the West affectionately pats the faces of our immature officials, and they are so overjoyed by this display of affection by the bloodthirsty wolves—that is, the United States and the West—that once again they turn to the brutal and savage visage of the powers of arrogance.

I do not know how long this oscillating policy will continue. If a politician or an official has the proper political acumen, this amount of experience should be

enough for him. Therefore, we can only believe that those who implement our foreign policy are suffering from political impotence.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How do you assess the outcome of the Arab- Israeli talks?

[Mohtashemi] As has been repeated frequently, all negotiations with despotic Israel by Arabs or non-Arabs is aimed at granting legality to this illegitimate progeny and is considered a crime against Muslims and the oppressed Muslim Palestinian nation. The U.S. and Arab governments are not seeking a solution to the problems of the Middle East and Palestine, but are looking for ways to consolidate the usurpist Zionist regime and weaken and undermine Islam and the Muslims as much as possible.

Vindicating the rights of the Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine is possible only through jihad and holy defense and by combating the usurpists and their U.S. and Western supporters. Continuing the negotiations can only undermine the jihad and holy uprising of the Palestinian nation and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon. This in itself is additional treachery and serves to perpetuate the filthy existence of Israel!

The true Muslims and the heroic Palestinians should continue their armed jihad as long as one Zionist remains on the hallowed land of Palestine. The struggle should continue until the Jewish Zionist elements are annihilated, because leaving one Jewish Zionist means the root of the cancerous, antihuman Israeli regime will not have been scorched and could spread again to continue to propagate its antihuman vices.

Most of the plots against the Muslims are being perpetrated in the Balkan region, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the central Asian republics, and in India and Pakistan. Israel and the Zionists are hatching these plots. The Muslims should unite to uproot this cancerous tumor in one fell swoop.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What do you think about the latest threats voiced by White House echelons and by U.S. media against Iran?

[Mohtashemi] These are the result of the weakness and political impotence of U.S. politicians internationally and of the spread of the revolution's values in Islam.

As long as the Iranian Government adheres to the imam's political and categorical decisions, the great leader, and the heroic Iranian nation and follows a policy of honor, power, and revolutionary expediency, the West and the United States must bow to the demands and sensitivities of the Islamic ummah and the Iranian nation and accept this immutable reality.

Unfortunately, a young and frivolous individual bereft of political insight is at the helm in the United States. Bill Clinton, who is greatly influenced by his power-seeking, high-flying spouse and avaricious and superficial associates, will drag the United States, its nation of millions, and those countries that support it into the vortex of political, moral, and material decline. The American nation should watch the administration in the White House and control it. In Iran, love of the Iranian system permeates the body and soul of the Iranian nation. The revolution's principles and values have been incorporated in the Constitution as the system's backbone and pillars. The U.S. officials should realize they are not pitched against the Iranian Government alone, but are up against the entire Iranian nation, which has sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs and disabled. Every Iranian family has invested its life and soul in the revolution and system, so any move by the greater world powers against the system and the revolution is doomed to failure.

The issue does not end here. Such a move would have to reckon with the reaction of every Muslim nation, because the Muslims are enamored of the Islamic revolution and are very sensitive toward its enemies. If the Clinton administration harbors false ideas about the Iranian system, it is playing with fire. The Iranian Government should take no measure or step that could fan the avarice of the U.S. enemy or cause chagrin to the friends of the revolution. Even if this is done in a tactical [preceding word in English] manner, it will be blatant treachery to the strength of the revolution and of Islam.

IAEA Head Praised for View of Nuclear Plans

NC0206063993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has described Iran's cooperation with the agency as perfect and said there are no documents to prove Iran has nuclear material for nonpeaceful purposes.

The IAEA is a world organization supervising countries' nuclear activity. Its primary duty is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms, so it tries—through its agreements with various countries and its supervision of their nuclear installations—to direct nuclear activity from the military field toward its peaceful energy use.

Blix's view on Iran's cooperation with the IAEA and Iran's peaceful use of its nuclear resources is important, rendering spiteful anti-Iranian propaganda baseless. Anti-Iranian propaganda claiming that Iran is trying to gain access to nuclear arms started some time ago. It continues intensively. The major objective behind the propaganda, which the United States is spreading, is to impose pressure and limitations on Iran. By claiming that Iran is trying to gain access to weapons of mass destruction, the United States has called on its allies to impose limitations on Iran.

This propaganda is spread while Iran is a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and has repeatedly stressed the need for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The remarks by the IAEA secretary general as an impartial source clarify that Iran is not seeking to gain access to nuclear arms, but is trying to use nuclear energy peacefully. They also show that the spiteful anti-Iranian propaganda aims not at the nonproliferation of nuclear arms, but to fulfill the political objectives of the propagandists.

Rebel Radio Reports Attacks by Regime 30 May, 1 Jun

NC0406061293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The clerical regime's antipopular forces continue to shell border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan with canons and mortars. An incoming report states that from 1430 [1000 GMT] to 2130 on 1 June, the regime's forces wretchedly carried out heavy artillery attacks against border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, on the outskirts of Qandil, and in (Nawdasht) region.

Another report received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan at 0550 on 30 May says the regime's forces used long-range heavy artillery to shell areas in Iraqi Kurdistan near the Baneh border. The mercenaries of the criminal clerical regime shelled (Kanarveh-ye Sofla), (Kanarveh-ye 'Olya), parts of (Kanarveh), and the villages of (Kiselava), (Butavyan), and (Bardaza). No reports of deaths have been received, but the shelling did cause damage.

Again, we strongly condemn the aggressive act by the clerical regime and state that if the Islamic Republic does not see a serious stance against it, the regime will continue to perpetrate its criminal acts and show contempt for the people's fate. We hope that every competent organization will pressure the clerical regime to prevent its aggression and encroachment against border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan.

* Presidential Election Supervisory Councils Named

* 21 Apr Appointments

93LA0051A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The Central Supervisory Committee of the Council of Guardians for the Sixth Presidential Election of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in separate decrees, selected the members of the Election Supervisory Committees for six provinces of the country.

The Election Supervisory Committees in each of the provinces of Semnan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Bushehr, Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari, Hormozgan, and Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad are comprised of seven members.

The names of the members are as follows.

Province of Semnan

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan 'Ali Mazandarani, chairman; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn 'Ali 'Arabi; Mohammad Hoseyn Kalatehha'i; Hasan Najjar; Hoseyn Formian; Seyyed Ja'far Akram; and 'Abd ol-Hoseyn Khalesi.

Province of Sistan and Baluchestan

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolrazzaq Nuri-Safa, chairman; Mohammad Reza Keshavarz; Khashayar Barzgar; Mohammad Khazay; Mohammad 'Ali Yazdanpanah; Mohammad Reza Saber; and Mowlavi Gholamhoseyn Mohebbi.

Province of Bushehr

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Sedaqat, chairman; 'Abdolkarim Afkar-Azad; Hoseyn Dashti; Mohammad Bakhish; Seyyed Javad Hashemi; Kazem Puladtan; and Shoja' Kazemi.

Province of Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ja'far Mortazavi, chairman; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hemmatian; Asghar Ra'isi; Mohammad Nikkhah; Fariborz Yadollahi; 'Ali Reza Delafkar; and Esma'il Taji.

Province of Hormozgan

Seyyed Ahmad Sheykholeslami, chairman; Rajab Heydari-Hengami; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mozaffari; Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Firuzi; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Foqara'i-Sa'idabad; Ebrahim Shahi; and Mohammad Reza'i.

Province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad

Seyyed Abolfath Musavi, chairman; Khodabakhsh Taji; Mohammad Niknezhad; Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Farajollah Musavi; Mansur Safarpur; 'Ali Shari'ati; and Jahanbakhsh Mortazavi.

* 25 Apr Appointments

93LA0051B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The Central Supervisory Committee of the Council of Guardians for the Sixth Presidential Election of the Islamic Republic of Iran elected the members of the Supervisory Committees in the provinces of Fars, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Yazd, Central, and Ilam.

The members of the Supervisory Committees of these provinces are:

Province of Fars. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Fatemi (chairman), Mohammad 'Ali Shayestehnia, Karim Zare-'ifard, Majid Ruzitalab, Sa'id Zahed Zahedani, Mohammad Farrokhruz, and Siamak Afrasiabi.

Province of Khuzestan. Hojjat ol-Eslam Sa'id Sa'di (chairman), Seyyed Taher Musavizadeh, 'Abbas Bazrafkan, 'Abbas Holaku'i, Mohammad Kazem Shayesteh, Musa Mumnezhad, and Mohammad Mokhber-Dezfuli.

Province of Zanjan. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'far Senmar (chairman), Mr. Musavi, Mohammad Rashidfar, Mohammad 'Ali Zabihian, Gholamhoseyn Jalilkhani, Manuchehr Shahmohammadian, and Esma'il Afzali.

Province of Yazd. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Mokhtari (chairman), Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Mohammad Ra'uf, Mohammad Vahdati, Mohammad Hoseyn Mas'ud, Seyyed Mohammad Tabataba'i, 'Ali Akbar Ra'uf, and Mirza Mohammad Hasan Vafi.

Central Province. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Bahrami, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Reza Reza'ian, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Taqi 'Azizi, Mr. Taherizadeh, Mohammad Hasan Ekhlasmand, Gholamhoseyn Ra'iszadeh, and Bahador Aqa'i.

Province of Ilam. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Benshayesteh (chairman), Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan San'atkar, Mahmud Mansuri, 'Ali Akbar Zargushi, Malek Mohammad Hashemi, Ruhollah Arjmandi, and Yasal 'Ali Mohammadi.

* 28 Apr Appointments

93LA0051C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The Central Supervisory Committee of the Council of Guardians for the Sixth Presidential Elections in separate decrees appointed the members of the Election Supervisory Committees of the provinces of Khorasan, Eastern Azarbaijan, and Western Azarbaijan.

Based on this report, the appointed members in the above-mentioned provinces are as follows:

Province of Khorasan

1) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni (chairman)
2) Hojjat ol-Eslam Sa'idi Heydari
3) Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Asghar 'Ata'i-Khorasani
4) Seyyed Morteza Bakhtiari
5) 'Abdolmajid Helmi
6) Gholamhoseyn Heydari
7) Mohammad 'Ali Ghaffarian

Province of Eastern Azarbaijan

1) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Imani (chairman)
2) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Taqizadeh
3) Parviz Azhideh
4) Hamid Salimi Khaliq
5) Esma'il Valizadeh
6) Zeynol-'Abedin Taqavi
7) Firuz Reza'i

Province of Western Azarbaijan

1) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Taqi Saheb Zamani (chairman)
2) Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ja'far Salehi
3) Rasul Khodabakhshi
4) Majid Farrokhi
5) Mohammad Jalilzadeh
6) Taqi Karimi
7) Habib Hoseynzadeh

Militant Clerics Association Election Stance Railed

NC0106073593 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 May 93 pp 3, 12

[Domestic Political Section commentary: "Ambiguous Stances"]

[Excerpt] "The [Tehran Militant Clerics] Association will not participate in the election.

"After the fourth term Majles election, we stopped the political activities of the Clerics Association.

"Perhaps some friends and factions believe we have withdrawn from the political scene, but we have not done so."

These remarks were made by a member of the Militant Clerics Association in an interview with SALAM.

Putting these ambiguous and contradictory remarks next to each other raises some questions, which should be answered.

If halting the Militant Clerics Association's political activities means its dissolution, the issue is plain. But if this means the Association does not intend to assume a position and partake in the presidential election, we should see to what extent its new stances conform with the objectives and motives of this political group.

Before entering this discussion, we should recall the words in the will of Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic:

"The noble nation should participate in every election, be it presidential or otherwise."

Should you respond to the imam's call to be present on the scene by saying you will not participate in the election?!

Isn't the Association part of the nation? Doesn't it think the imam's call applies to it?! In his will, the imam said this of the election:

"As for the participation of the nation, from the great scholars and ulema to the bazaaris, the farmers, and the workers, everyone is responsible for the fate of the country and Islam for this generation and the next; in some cases, absence and negligence will be a major sin."

Don't you who officially declare that "the Association will not participate in the presidential election" see the divine words of the imam applying to you?!

In declaring the Association's stances and in stating the reason this political body was formed, you said clearly: "The most important reason the Militant Clerics Association was formed was to implement the imam's views."

Don't you consider the imam's will to represent his views?! We should thank Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi for his views on the people's participation in the election. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Reconstruction, Reform Plans

LD0306130093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1016 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Address by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In my previous speech I promised that in total my presidential speeches would be divided into three sections: first, the situation at the start of the incumbent government's term in office; second, the situation after the implementation of the first [five-year] plan; third, how we envisage the future. I have already itemized the first two sections, covering the post-war situation in the country, and the situation today. On the basis of that promise I must outline how I envisage the country and the community's prospects in the future—in the next government term. God willing I will manage to outline them clearly.

The first plan was chiefly focused on reconstruction and repair of the destruction, and economic regulation. In my view, it was successful, albeit there was a year's delay at the start of the plan; that is to say we lost a year, and we still have a year of it to go. So far, however, it has been satisfactory.

The second plan, while completing the reconstruction works and regulation, will focus on stabilization [tasbit]. There is a serious difference between these two stages. To carry out our serious reforms, we needed regulation, but to properly exploit our present and future actions, however, we need the stage of stabilization. I deem stabilization the special feature of the second plan, while it will also deal with the aftermath of regulation.

Well, in the recent days we have listened to speeches made by the other presidential candidates, who expressed their ideas, aspirations, and plans. They included interesting points, as well as of course some rhetoric. Regarding the interesting points, fortunately I noticed that all of them have without exception been stipulated in the already sanctioned policies of the second plan. Again, we have fortunately sanctioned and published the policies of the second plan. They are now at the disposal of the media, and some have started writing about them. Of course, those gentlemen only mentioned a small part of the huge volume of the policies; we have about 70 pages, comprising about 500 clauses and articles covering all dimensions, a number of which were mentioned by the gentlemen. If I were in their place, however, to please the people and increase their confidence in the system, I would have said that the system has been paying attention to these issues. Of course, the gentlemen in all modesty did confirm the general policies of the system, and mentioned a few other points on which there are differences of opinion. They made some good remarks, and no one has said anything unpalatable. However, it would bring joy to the hearts of our people, and despair to the heart of our enemies, to stress that the system has indeed paid attention to those ideas and aspirations, and will continue to do so.

I do not want to enter a discussion on what would have happened had the government failed to take all the actions it has taken in these four years; on how the situation would have been in terms of inflation, production, cash flow and deficit; and our relations with the rest of the world, in terms of, for instance, the [Security Council] resolution [598]. Well, the people have seen all that with their own eyes and can judge for themselves.

As for the chief axis, the policies of which we have sanctioned, they are not merely ideas or promises; they are issues on which we have formulated policies on the basis of our past experience and in terms of our resources. I believe they are viable—just as we carried out what we had said in our first plan. Of course, one cannot say with full certainly that everything will be implemented; there could be differences of a few percentage points, here and there, but the core is viable.

The chief axis of our sanctioned policies which must be passed on to the Majles at a later stage, concerns educational, cultural, administrative, managerial infrastructure and development work in accordance with the country's general needs, production and distribution, social works such as security, hygiene, services, and the establishment of social balance to realize the rights of the country's deprived strata, who had been deprived of their rights in the past.

These policies are being implemented in various sectors and areas. Of course, in accordance with these policies we are preparing our quantitative goals and plans, which will be ready in a few months. They will demonstrate the volume of work, not the policies themselves. [passage omitted]

In the education and research fields we have approved policies covering from birth to the end of university education, including preuniversity, primary, secondary, university, specialist, and postspecialist education. It has been planned so that at the end of the second plan we will have no illiterate school-age people. Regarding specialist and postspecialist courses, we will operate in such a way that our need for foreign specialists will decrease, even completely eliminating the need in some subjects, if possible. [passage omitted]

Regarding research, we have a serious shortage in terms of higher education and research, which are important.

Culture is another issue we are emphasizing. We have very strong policies for cultural improvement and have outlined the trenches for properly combating cultural onslaughts and defense. [passage omitted]

We have a big budget for building cultural centers and providing cultural facilities, which we started to do this year. In the first two or three months of this year I have approved over 200 cultural centers in deprived and remote parts of the country from the allocations at my disposal and the allocations of various departments. They are being implemented.

At this point I would like to stress the importance of physical education and the particular attention we must pay to the needs of youth. We have set up a supreme council for youth affairs. We must also pay particular attention to the needs of women. I believe they need greater attention and care to enable them to gain their rights in society and to play a worthy role in society.

We must allocate more resources to committed art and culture. More centers should be set up to train artists and writers. This is an extensive sector and my manifesto on its expansion has been published for the people to see.

I wish to discuss the expansion of the administrative sector. Other candidates have also raised this issue. I think government resources in this sector are not sufficient. We have made a lot of progress during the past few years but there are still plans on which work should be undertaken.

The possibility of allocating some of the tasks performed by the state to the private sector depends on the how the people welcome the transfer of state tasks. We are very serious about allocating tasks to the private sector. This is true in all departments, including the economic sector, the administrative sector, the training and cultural sector, and in other services and welfare departments. It remains to be seen how people will welcome the idea by coming forward to invest and take over these sectors. I hereby invite the people to take the matter seriously.

Of course it is not possible to expect the state sectors to shrink as the private sector takes over. For instance, the education and training department employs a major part of our administrative cadre. There are about 900,000 people working as teachers and as administrative personnel in this department. We have to increase the number of classrooms by 30,000 per year. If on the average we employ two persons to run a classroom, we will need to expand our cadre by 60,000 per year, even if we involve the private sector.

The same is true in the health and treatment department. Currently there are 400,000 to 500,000 working in this department. The rapid expansion of this sector, including setting up health centers in rural areas, means we need up to 3,000 new centers per year. Each center would require three to four employees to run it. You can imagine what the cost will be. We are building new hospitals and are carrying out other tasks. The expansion of all these sectors requires more investment.

Law enforcement forces will not be reduced in number, for many of our border areas are still left unguarded. It is not clear whether the Armed Forces will be reduced in number. Of course it is not entirely up to the government to make a decision in this respect; the decisions are made by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the esteemed leader of the revolution.

Other departments are not so highly overmanned that they should expect cuts in personnel. However, we are currently cooperating with the Majles to amend the government's structure. We will merge departments wherever we can and will allocate departments to the private sector whenever possible. I hope the government's efficiency will increase. This is definite, but cutting it down in size will depend on what degree the people take over the tasks from us. The other gentlemen laid great emphasis on this point, and it is part of our ideas and strategy too. But one has to be realistic on these issues.

The other part of our task concerns monetary and financial issues. Past policies will continue in this field. We will continue to move toward eliminating the budget deficit. The deficit was one of the factors contributing to inflation in the past, and we have fortunately achieved some results by now. [passage omitted]

We will try so that government-affiliated companies, like the private sector, operate more independently. A large number of them will be privatized. Here some people may exaggerate. The majority of government-affiliated companies cannot be privatized. For example, how could electricity be privatized, as they see in the Constitution? And airlines, railways, shipping, oil, gas, petrochemicals, communications, mail, fertilizer, and poison companies? They are important government companies, very heavy industry. They are regarded as governmental in the Constitution. [passage omitted]

In the financial sector the banks are to be strengthened so they can further attract public confidence and money and steer it in the right direction. Tax resources are to be fortified so that the government does not use its own capital, so that current expenditures do not come out of its own purse, using tax revenues instead. Cash in circulation, inflation, and credits are to conform to the needs of the society and our conditions at this juncture. Fortunately, that has been successful in the first plan and it will continue in the same way.

We rely heavily on other areas, such as oil and mines, in the country's economy. On oil, our policy is to strengthen exploration and discover our reserves. Unfortunately, in the past 10 or 12 years, because of the war, we were not able to explore. The discovery of huge reserves will greatly increase our country's creditability and collateral. Fortunately, in the past two or three years

we have been able to set up dozens of off-shore and on-shore drilling rigs which are carrying out exploration work now, in addition to seismographical equipment and other research and gas resources.

Of course, we will only extract what we need and as much as the market allows. We are a member of OPEC and are allocated a quota. We will only extract within the quota limit. But if we were to prove our reserves and increase our production capability, which is currently 4.1 million barrels per day, we would increase the figure to 5 to 6 million barrels. This would be a very desirable figure in the world and we would start production.

We think gas production is one of our major achievements. The government was behind in this field but good progress was made during the past few years. This is the cheapest, the healthiest, and the most reliable fuel in the world. Thanks to Iran's rich gas reserves, we will not worry about running out of this resource even hundreds of years later.

Our policy is to keep the price of this fuel low; it cannot be smuggled abroad. Our economy's relatively better performance is due to this cheap fuel. This will enable us to compete in the world, particularly in those industries which require gas in their production process. We will therefore expand our gas network rapidly.

At present about 160 cities are receiving piped gas. God willing, this will expand to reach most towns, cities, and industrial regions. I also would like to ask the people to modify their appliances to use gas instead of other fuels. Such measures would save the government a lot of money. For instance, if gas was consumed instead of diesel fuel, we could then sell the diesel fuel. The price of diesel fuel in your neighboring country of Turkey is 700 to 800 rials per liter. We give you a [cubic] meter of gas for 10 rials. [passage omitted]

Our next subject is the petrochemical industry. This is truly a huge, wealth-creating industry. Our current production capacity is 5.5 million tonnes of petrochemical products. Most of this was achieved during the first five-year economic plan. The theoretical capacity of our planned petrochemical complexes is about 12 million tonnes. All of them will be completed within the next two years. The 12-million-tonne figure will meet a considerable part of the country's requirements, including industry and agriculture, and will also be exported to the international market. No doubt we will increase investment as far as the world market demands. The domestic market will be saturated, thanks to this investment.

The question now is our export figure. This is a highly profitable product. If we were to sell the petrochemical products at $1,000 per tonne, we would earn a large amount in hard currency. But some of the products are worth more than $1,000 per tonne.

The same applies to other mines. In the second plan big steps will be taken in our major mines. We have extensive plans for our iron ore, coal, copper, lead, zinc, gold, uranium, various precious and construction stones, and various other things. You have seen them in our exhibitions. We have prepared the necessary tools. I believe that mining products will constitute one of our important export items in the next plan—with the exception of oil.

In the energy sector—I am outlining work on infrastructure—again, the prospects are extremely good. We plan to attain a secure supply. At present the rates of demand and supply are very close. We must have a 20-30 percent supply of power stations, in reserve, ready to enter the grid in exceptional circumstances and contingencies. Transfer lines must be linked together. The entire country must be brought into the grid, thereby giving the whole nation access to electricity under all conditions. The principal part of these plans have been implemented, and the principal part will be implemented in the first two years of the first plan [as heard].

Our emphasis here is on hydroelectric power, which is the most reliable and cheapest source of energy. Fortunately, we do have this potential in Iran, thanks to these massive mountains of Alborz, Zagros, and others. Karun alone can supply around 14,000 megawatts of electricity; that is the country's present consumption. At present we have four huge dams under study, and two or three of them are ready to become operational; in the case of one of them a contract has been signed and completed with the Japanese, and one with another place. Major steps are being taken in that sector.

The harnessing of waters has been one of the main policies of the first plan which will continue in the second plan. From now on you will witness the opening of big dams—around four to five dams a year—and numerous small dams. We have given priority to the harnessing of surface waters and the river flow across the border, thus far being wasted.

In agriculture, again, our policy is very clear. The policies of the second plan, too, have been drawn up and are ready. Our aim is self-sufficiency in the majority of agricultural products: wheat, barley, fodder, grains, pulses, rice, sugar, sugar cane, and other products. We aim to reach an export level in many of these by harnessing waters—which I mentioned before—pressurized mechanized irrigation to cut water costs, as we have too much land and little water, improved agricultural methods, the leveling of land, deeper plowing, improved cultivation, and the use of pesticides.

We aim to improve the conditions of farmers by providing cheap loans and guaranteeing the purchase of their products; that is, the government will set a price taking into account a degree of profit, and buy what the farmers fail to sell. We will also provide agricultural insurance policies to make the farmers feel secure and not worry about rain, weather, and other problems. We have taken this issue very seriously in the second plan. The same applies to animal husbandry, fishery, poultry

raising, and forestry. We must achieve self-sufficiency in animal husbandry, and we are very close to that. [passage omitted]

In fishing, we have reached self-sufficiency in the production of prawns and shrimp, and we have export aims. Regarding forestry, much of our forests have been destroyed so we hope to preserve them.

As to housing, our situation is quite obvious. In the past there were shortages of either land, water, power, or building materials. Never have we had available to us all those elements which are need for mass housing.

Under the first plan all these factors will now be available. Today in almost all parts of the country we are in a position to allocate land for housing, when the second plan is to be implemented.

Meanwhile, we have no shortage of building materials—almost none. We can produce everything to the level of our needs—that is by the end of the current year we will produce enough cement, bricks, wood, glass, and other materials such as steel and other metals. As to human resources, there is no shortage of that in Iran. The only thing which may be in short supply is financing. That is, the deprived classes cannot build houses because of high prices for land and building materials. We must now provide low cost long-term loans to low income people for building the kind of houses which we envisage—houses to be built on 100-meter square plots of land or less than that. The installment on loans must be as much as the rent they might pay. These are projects which have already been approved and which are to be implemented under the second plan.

The policy on industries is also clear; it enjoyed priority in the first plan because our industries lagged behind and were run down. Fortunately, great steps have been taken, such as strengthening the sector, through investments and protection of industry, and giving priority to basic industries, especially machine building and electronics. Also, there will be attention paid to cottage industries, which have a great role to play in creating jobs and keeping the rural population on their own farms.

In the transportation sector we think railways should have priority because it is the best means of transportation. Fortunately, vast investments which were made in the first plan will come to fruition during the lifespan of the second plan. Railways must be connected to Pakistan—one is already linked to that country through Zahedan, but the whole network must be connected . The rail network must also be linked to neighboring northern countries through Turkmenistan. The railways must be faster and use heavier trains. The stations must also be improved.

Air and sea transportation will also be strengthened. We will place suitable instruments at the disposal of the private sector, as much as is needed, to expand overland transport sector.

Concerning security, the law enforcement forces will be strengthened. Our priorities on security and intelligence will be to combat smugglers and lawless elements and to provide security throughout the country for the people.

As to cities, urban development, and maintenance of city services through the resources of city dwellers themselves—because it is not fair for rural inhabitants to pay for the cost of the development of urban areas—we will strengthen relations between the city municipalities and the people through the election of municipality officials. In this way people themselves participate and assist the reform and reconstruction of cities.

We will strengthen the judicial system through government support so that it will be prepared to accelerate the judicial process and increase its precision. Of course the responsibility for this does not lie with us but support for it does.

In communications, we have an extensive program for using satellites and for providing telephone lines in ample quantities all over the country. This particular program was successful in the first expansion plan. Telephone lines have increased severalfold. We intend to strengthen the postal system. [passage omitted] Fortunately, ministry officials do not want any assistance from us any longer and can cope with the expansion through their own revenues.

As to health and treatment, I have already talked about training in this sector. We plan seriously to tackle the question of health insurance and to extend these so that everyone can benefit from safe insurance. The bill for this is ready for presentation to the Majlis. Hospitals, nursing homes, and health clinics will be strenghtened all over the country. Fortunately, the universities have become equipped and are being strengthened adequately to supply the necessary requirements, the specialists, and medical cadres.

The same policies contained in the first program will be followed concerning other social problems such as reducing deprivation. We hope not to have any deprived areas left in the country by the end of the second expansion plan, God willing—deprived in the current sense of the word which may change in the future. We will pay more attention to villages and rural areas; the protection of the environment is among the serious requirement of today's industrial society. I ask our people to cooperate with the government to protect the environment; we, too, are seriously investing in this. Preventing desert encroachment and desalination of the deserts are now among our priorities because of the environment and also because of our economic problems. God willing, the completion of the reconstruction of war-stricken regions and the fortification of the Armed Forces will be to the level of the country's defense needs so that investment is not squandered and wasted. We have started studying extensively the use of new forms of energy which are unprecedented in our country. We hope to benefit from wind, from underground

reserves, and from solar energy; this concerns the energy sector and may still be at the level of expectations. We only have a policy but have not formulated the specifics right now.

Regarding investment, the government's investment will be more than in previous years because of improved financial, monetary, and foreign exchange resources. The private sector will be encouraged to invest by giving it assurance and support and by eliminating buraucratic red tape. Of course, just as in the policies set down, priority will be given to uncompleted projects. The policies have been drawn up explicitly to begin new projects only in cases of urgent need. When we complete projects to the same level as past projects then we will be in a position to begin new ones.

At the same time, we must deal with the issue of employment. We think that employment can be brought about by investment and an increase in production. One cannot create employment by pressure from the coercive power of the law; if someone becomes employed by such means that employment is in reality unemployment, involving waste of time and resources. Therefore, under current circumstances, employment policy is based on investment, the strengthening of production, and attention to those types of works which create employment.

Along with these issues, there is our policy on import, export, and trade. We hope that our foreign trade attains balance in the future, because with the policies that we have implemented so far and will pursue in our second development plan, we are meeting many of the demands domestically, without spending any foreign exchange. For instance, take petrochemical material, metals, and minerals. Up to now, the bulk of these and also a substantial proportion of consumer goods and foodstuff used to be imported. These are all now being produced domestically, resulting in substantial savings in foreign exchange expenditures. Even in petroleum sector, we now spend the income earned from the sale of 300,000 barrels on import of goods. By advancing natural gas consumption and economizing fuel consumption, we will eliminate those imports. We, therefore, think that in the course of the second development plan we will have surplus in our foreign trade, as well as a secure foreign reserve. Within the first two years of the second plan we had less debt than what we had foreseen during the first plan. During the second two years we will be meeting our commitments. We will act in a totally balanced way in the course of the second plan. Our foreign trade, therefore, will be balanced, and will enjoy a surplus. [as heard]

On the domestic scene, we will use demand and supply as a basis. To control inflation, we will use the levers of more production, of harnessing the money supply, and of physical control. There are cases where we must act through control, price fixing, and supervision. There are also some cases where we will act through governmental intervention. We have many commodity resources which are at the government's disposal, and when it is necessary we will enter the arena as a competitor. Physical controls, however, cannot be neglected; a law for this has fortunately been envisaged and a bill about it will soon be presented to the Majlis.

A noteworthy topic in our policies has been decentralization. This was present in our first development plan, and will now be strengthened; that is, leaving the affairs of the provinces in their own hands, whether in development or in executive affairs. We have previously taken steps toward this, and we will be strengthening these steps within our second plan. This will be done along with denationalization of some works; something which can be effective in accelerating processes, and for reducing provincial people's travels to cities. I hope that the officials with their know-how, in which we have confidence... [pauses] Our people have actually never been influenced by slogans and promises. Instead they have always used their logic to discern the correct way. The path that the imam of ummah has laid before the nation, and the path that the leadership has consolidated in the absence of the imam of ummah, implies that our people should be present on the scene much in the same way as before, and we should continue to be in the service of the people. Of course one of the important duties for us and for you all is that we should pay attention to those who have made sacrifices, the esteemed families of martyrs, and those who have invested in this revolution with their lives. This is one of the government's important policies, and it will fulfill its obligations. Health and social insurance and subsidies will continue; of course only just and fair subsidies, because we will eliminate unfair subsidies while we continue our assistance in the form of subsidies to the needy sectors until the conclusion of this development plan.

Peace and God's benedictions be upon you.

Official Urges Opposition Press Discretion

NC0306122593 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3 (AFP)—A Culture Ministry official said Thursday [3 June] little could be done to stop attacks by Islamic zealots on opposition publications and asked the press to write more discreetly so as not to offend them.

"We cannot stop them, but we also do not approve of their attitude and behaviour," ministry spokesman Mojtaba Hamadani told SALAM newspaper.

Sixty motocyclists attacked and damaged last month the offices of KIAN magazine for an interview with an opposition leader who said Iranians had become disillusioned with religion.

Mehdi Bazargan, a former prime minister and the head of the Freedom Movement party, said in the interview

that Iranians "were suffering from economic, political and social" problems and that they had become "disillusioned with religion".

The assault widely attributed to over-zealous Islamists (known as Hezbollahis) was given little coverage in the Iranian press.

But Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi indirectly criticised the assailants the following week and said "such acts would weaken" the Islamic republic.

Hamadani said there was a freedom of press in Iran, but "some were going too far".

"We defend the law and any protest should be made through a legal procedure, but our publications should behave in a way no to offend the sentiments of the Hezbollahis," he said.

Several publications have been attacked in Iran in the past two years, and conservative newspapers repeatedly call for censorship of opposition papers.

Vice President on Success of Population Control

LD0306163993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Interview with First Vice President Hasan Habibi by unidentified reporter following a cabinet session on 2 June in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, would you please talk about what issued were raised in the cabinet session and what are the cabinet's most important decisions.

[Habibi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The cabinet reviewed a report on a study of death and birth rates in the Islamic Republic. A study has been carried out, samples have been taken, to ascertain the general situation of the population, the annual rate of population growth of the state. It has become clear—according to the studies that have been made—that at present, that is, in Farvardin 1372 [month of 21 March to 21 April 1993] the natural growth of the population was 2.3 percent. When we compare this with the past—that is in Mehr 1370 [month of 23 September to 22 October 1991] the natural population growth was 2.7 percent. Taking into consideration that in Mehr 1372 this rate was 2.5 percent, it can be seen that the rate of growth has regularly decreased. [passage omitted]

Consequently we must say that the population control plan is, God willing, bearing results. Of course there are reasons for this, the most important of which are the cooperation of the people in this matter, the belief that this task must be carried out and, especially, the increased literacy, the widespread education of the people in this matter, and the increased use of birth control methods which can be effective in decreasing the population growth rate. God willing, this program will be continued. [passage omitted]

Protocol on Cooperation Signed With Moldova

LD0306141693 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Visiting Moldovan first deputy premier, Andronati, and Iran's deputy foreign misiter for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, here today inked a protocol on economic, scientific, cultural and technical cooperation.

While signing the document, Nati expressed satisfaction with the discussions he had with Iranian officials and hoped that Tehran-Chisinau ties be further promoted.

The first ever high-ranking Moldovan delegation to Iran, headed by Andronati, arrived here Monday [31 May] night.

Pakistan

President Ishaq Khan Said Not To Seek Reelection

BK0406114693 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 30 May 93 pp 1, 7

[By NAWA-I-WAQT Correspondent]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will not contest the next presidential election. Informed sources claimed that the president has made this decision on the advice of his close associates in view of the situation that has arisen after the Supreme Court's verdict declaring the dissolution of the National Assembly by the president as unconstitutional. The sources said that the president was also advised to step down, but he decided to continue in his office for the time being.

Answering a question, the sources said that the military has not put any pressure on the president to resign. It has been learned that Ghulam Ishaq Khan has decided to complete "quietly" the constitutional term of his office as president.

Meanwhile, observers believe that Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will also prefer to wait for a few months instead of introducing an impeachment motion against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The sources said that the Supreme Court's verdict declaring the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government by the president as unconstitutional and illegal has tremendously enhanced Nawaz Sharif's political stature and that several of his old colleagues, who had defected to the opposition camp, will come back to him.

Murtaza Bhutto To End Self-Exile, Face Charges

BK0306122193 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Karachi, June 1—In a statement purporting to have been issued by him in Damascus, Mir Murtaz Bhutto has declared his intention to end his self-exile and return to Pakistan.

Mir Murtaza Bhutto's lengthy statement, which did not carry his signature and whose Urdu version was received at the DAWN office on Tuesday evening, referred to the "very grave crisis" which the country was facing. He categorically denied charges levelled. against him during the last 15 years, terming them an attempt at character assassination of his family.

After the July 5, 1977 Martial Law of Gen Ziaul Haq, Murtaza Bhutto said, on the orders of his father the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he left Pakistan for Britain, where he and his younger brother Shahnawaz were studying.

He said after the "judicial murder" of his father, the military regime launched "nefarious propaganda" against his family and "created hurdles" in the way of his return to the country.

About the hijacking of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] aircraft in 1981, Mir Murtaza Bhutto claimed that at the time of hijacking he was not associated with any organisation nor had any organization been set up by him.

"Soon after the hijacking, we were contacted by the government through a friendly country, for our cooperation to end the hijacking, as the hijackers were demanding the release of political workers. We were given an international guarantee that our cooperation would not be given any other colour. To save the lives of passengers, I immediately intervened and not only the passengers were released by the hijackers but the aircraft also reached home safely."

The elder son of the late Prime Minister said soon after the hijacking affair, the mililaunched a propaganda against him and his family and thousands of People's Party workers were arrested and tortured in their cells.

"This," Mir Murtaza said, "has forced even the peaceful masses to take to the gun to fight against the terrorism of guns. I had never taken a step which hurt Pakistan or its citizens, and all my acts were against Ziaul Haq, who had abrogated the Constitution and murdered an elected Prime Minister."

"Owing to the prevailing crisis in the country. I have decided to return to Pakistan and face all charges levelled against me in any independent court in Pakistan. I am ready to prove my innocence," he concluded.